

British Horse Council Meeting – Summer Meeting

30 June 2023

Welsh Government Update

Equine ID: Welsh Government officials are keeping in close contact with Defra counterparts on the development of Equine ID policy in England. Whilst Welsh Government has no current plans to digitise the equine ID system in Wales, we are currently developing a digital multispecies livestock traceability system, known as Multispecies EIDCymru. EIDCymru is currently the electronic registration and movement system for sheep, and development work to manage registration and movements of cattle is currently underway. Multispecies EIDCymru could potentially be developed further to include equine identification records. We plan to review equine identification policy in advance of the introduction of equines on to Multispecies EIDCymru, and to engage with stakeholders as part of that process.

Welfare during transport / export for slaughter: We are working with the UK and Scottish Governments to consider how the protection of animal welfare during transport can be strengthened. We share the view animals should only be transported when necessary and journey durations should be minimised. The export of animals for slaughter or fattening is unnecessary because they could be slaughtered or fattened domestically. We worked with the UK Government on introducing a ban on the export of live animals for slaughter, including for fattening for subsequent slaughter, through the Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill, a UK Government Bill, led by Defra. The UK Government recently announced the Bill will be carved-up and its provisions taken forward separately. We are considering our next steps and will explore which provisions could be progressed on a Wales-only basis. We will prioritise the commitments set out in our Programme for Government and [Animal Welfare Plan](#).