

Update for British Horse Council Meeting 8th December 2023

- Very brief update from DAERA in Northern Ireland

Equine Identification:

- We continue to assess the new obligations under the EU Animal Health Law in respect of equine identification and traceability. The Department is currently preparing a draft statutory rule to give effect to enforcement provisions, but this is likely to require the reinstatement of Northern Ireland Ministers before it could be brought forward. In the meantime, owners and operators are still required to ensure their animals are properly identified and are encouraged to register their equine premises with the Department. Information on how to do this can be found on the DAERA website

Update from the Ports:

- building work for permanent facilities at Belfast Port and Larne Port has just commenced with a view to completion by July 2025.
- Both will include a purpose built equine facility with approx. 15 stables of various sizes which will be EU compliant
- This will greatly facilitate the post import checking of horses by port staff

Equine Strategy:

- Work on the Equine Strategy (which includes developing Equine Assisted Therapy and Learning, off road riding, farriery legislation and Knowledge and Skills in Northern Ireland) has been temporarily paused due to resource constraints within DAERA and reprioritisation of work areas.

This concludes the update from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland.