



Minutes of the 6th BREEDING & PRODUCTION ADVISORY FORUM
of HORSE SPORT IRELAND
held online via MS TEAMS
Thursday 2nd April 2026 AT 2.35PM -3.05PM

Present: Cait Hennessy, CPBS (CH)
Daragh O'Tuairisig, CPBS (DO)
Hannah Richardson, IHRA (HR)
Liz Murphy, MRBG (LM)
Brigid Devine, ICA (BD) (joined 14:47)
Christopher Bogle, NIHB (CB) (joined 14:43)
Allison Mercer, NIHB (AM) (joined 14:41, left 14:43)

In attendance: Sonja Egan- Head of Breeding, Innovation & Development (SE)
Jenny Gaffney – Breeding Grant Manager (JG) (Minutes)
Denis Duggan- Chief Executive Officer (DD)

Apologies : Kevin Noone (TIHA)
Pat Cunningham (PC)
Tomás Rosengrave (TR)
Henk Minderman, Breeders Elite (HM)
Amanda Fahy, IDHBA (AF)
Barbara Hatton, RSOS (BH)
Sean McGuirk, IDHS (SM)

Abbreviations: Horse Sport Ireland (HSI); Chief Executive Officer (CEO); Microsoft (MS); Traditional Irish Horse Association (TIHA); Irish Draught Horse Breeders Association (IDHBA); Irish Draught Horse Society (IDHS); Irish Cob Association (ICA); Irish Trotter Studbook & Irish Pacer Studbook (IHRA); Kerry Bog Pony Society (KBPS); Mayo Roscommon Breeders Group (MRBG); Irish Equine Veterinary Association (IEVA); Registered Stallion Owners Society (RSOS); Connemara Pony Breeders Society (CPBS); Northern Ireland Horse Board (NIHB); Irish Shows Association (ISA); Department of

Food, Agriculture and the Marine (DAFM); General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR); Equine Premises Number (EPN);

Quorum: Not Reached

Meeting opens 2:35pm

Updates for National Breeding Services 2026

- Presentation provided on approved schemes and initiatives for the 2026 National Breeding Services.
- Updates detailed on any changes to T&Cs for schemes:
 - Mare X-ray & Stallion Health/ X-ray pending approval with DAFM & Veterinary practices, who are reviewing change to funded amount for 2026.
 - Environmental Health Screening Scheme workshop on 17th April- provides attendees direct entry and 100% coverage on the scheme.
 - Schooling II now available to horses up to 7 years of age.
 - WBFSH Breeding Championship Selection policies being finalised with studbooks.
- Outline of application assessment process- all applications are reviewed, not only up until the spaces available are filled.
- DAFM Development Series- Dressage: Structure of the series updated for 2026 to align the classes more closely with the time of year when horses are most actively competing and where participation levels are expected to be higher. All NBS initiatives are reviewed annually to ensure that funding levels and programme structures reflect demand and participation as closely as possible
- Query regarding Treo Eile scheme: this is not a HSI delivered scheme. All queries must be directed to Treo Eile.
- Embryo Transfer scheme: Rare breeds rarity is assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Events & Competitions:

- Dates are published and have been circulated via relevant affiliates and HSI channels.

AOB

Reminder to forum regarding welcoming of any additional ideas for events and schemes they feel may be of merit.

Governance/ Terms of Reference (TOR):

- Transparency policy: minutes of advisory forums will now be published on the HSI website, as previously advised.

- Forum engagement: The HSI Board have approved the TOR relating to quorum being reached based on seats filled. Hopefully this will mean a quorum will be reached at the next meeting to replace the Chair.
- TOR meeting absence: Reminder of TOR around continuous absenteeism. Request to forum to engage with HSI where there will be an absence at a meeting.

Meeting ends 3:05pm