



**Horse Sport Ireland and IDHS Meeting
Held at HSI Offices, Naas
On Wednesday, 22nd July 2026 at 10.00am**

Present:

Denis Duggan, CEO – HSI

Sonja Egan, Head of Breeding, Innovation & Development – HSI

Jennifer Doyle, Geneticist – HSI *joined remotely*

Lucinda McClure, Senior Executive Assistant – HSI (*Minutes*)

Fiacre Hensey – IDHS

Seán McGuirk – IDH

Elizabeth Deane Coogan – IDHS *joined remotely*

Claire Babington – IDHS

At 10:06hrs SE opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

SM recognised the amnesty and the positive progress of this and acknowledged the financial support for the upcoming show. It was noted that the IDHS would like to meet at least every six months and are happy with the relationship in recent years with HSI which they noted as a positive relationship.

Inspections and Inspectors

CB spoke to the inspections and noted that the Stallion Inspections were a very well-run process. CB highlighted issues with the linear profiling type score but noted that the IDHS are in favour of having a process to preserve the herd. FH noted that inspections have become very popular, which is a positive thing. Linear profiling and the scoring process was discussed, noting that it is an internationally used system.

SE spoke to the inspections review process undertaken by HSI in 2025 and this was discussed at length, and it was noted that the process allowed an opportunity for everybody to provide input and facilitated the capture of statistical data.

Conflicts of interest relating to judges was discussed and SE noted that where a conflict occurs, this will be declared by the individual, noting that it would be extremely challenging to only utilise judges who are not active in the industry in some way. The introduction of an independent foreign judge to the panel was noted. SE advised that training for inspectors is provided on an open call basis, and it was noted that it is important for the IDHS to spread the work of dates for Inspector Training amongst their membership, should more training become available.

It was noted by HSI that both the IDHS and IDHBA are largely aligned in their views.

At 11:00hrs EDC left the meeting.

SE confirmed that she will discuss Stallion information with the team and noted that if information needs to be updated regarding a particular Stallion, this must be supplied to HSI the individual owner/breeder and be verified.

How & Why the Progeny of Grade Up (AID) mares both before and after grade-up are not automatically entitled to full ID status and passport

CB raised a query regarding a mare owned by EDC. It was noted the EDC had left the meeting, and SE could not discuss this individual case.

SE to provide CB with relevant studbook rules. *(provided following the meeting).*

Classification was discussed at length and the importance of recognising progeny. SE noted that if IDHS provide a list of animals and evidence to take to the competent authority (DAFM), she can present this to DAFM and revert to IDHS through a clear process and communication path.

Genetic Diversity & Rare Designations – outstanding questions

SM highlighted queries raised following the previous meeting in October 2025 and it was noted that these queries had been discussed at length and closed.

Pedigree completeness and rarity was discussed at length. It was noted that genotypes have been secured for every foal born since 2023, together with dams and sires in the main of these animals, providing a significant database for the breed.

At 11:29hrs DD left the meeting.

It was noted that the generation interval is now averaging 3-5 years as opposed to 11-12 years as people are breeding mares younger.

The rules and designation were discussed. Together with the general principles of genetic gain. IDHS noted they have an issue with the fourth-generation rule. HSI noted that pedigree was not always accurately recorded in the past, which is highlighted by the genetic information now available. It was noted that the rule was introduced to identify the rarest of the breed. However, we don't have to have the rare rule and can remove it as there has been limited breeder engagement.

HSI highlighted the substantial genetic work taking place across all of the studbooks and the considerable amount of time this requires with limited resources available.

JD clarified to SM that double the kindship is the relatedness. $2\% K = 4\% R$.

Genetic diversity and pedigree indexing were further discussed.

Semen harvesting was discussed and it was noted that IDHS should provide SE with feedback on the criteria to ensure that all schemes are serving their purpose, otherwise a scheme will risk being withdrawn. SE advised that semen harvesting can be revisited on provision of required information.

It was noted that JD is working on identifying genomic rarity within the breed but that this is a significant piece of work and will take time. HSI reiterated that under National Breeding Services, support has to be provided to all breeds. It was noted that HSI's parentage discovery services have already assisted in reestablishing pedigrees in animals which were previously registered as UNKs (white book passported animals with unknown pedigree recorded).

AOB

SM noted there were some outstanding matters for AOB, but these will be provided to SE by email following the meeting.

SM to provide SE with the evidence of the ruling from EU and report from DAFM relating to the 14 animals.

Progeny classification was further discussed. It was noted that if a mare has not already been to grade up when the foal is registered, the foal will be registered to the ISH studbook where it meets the crossbreeding requirements. However, the rules have been updated to allow genomics to provide clarity and facilitate classification as ID where applicable and this is indicated on the passport within the legislative format.

SE noted it is not permitted for an animal to withdraw from the ISH studbook and re-enter into ID studbook. However, a Grade Up ISH animal can be classified under ID classification system while retaining their original breed i.e. ISH.

At 12:03hrs all participants were thanked for their time, and the meeting was closed.

Ends.