

OFFICIAL DAERA MINUTES

MEETING TITLE	Northern Ireland Equine Stakeholder Group																																							
DIVISION/BRANCH REFERENCE	Equine Traceability																																							
VENUE	Clare House and Teams																																							
DATE/TIME	10 th November 2025 12:30																																							
LIST OF ATTENDEES	<table><tr><th>Organisation</th><th>Attendee Name</th></tr><tr><td>[REDACTED]</td><td>[REDACTED]</td></tr><tr><td>[REDACTED]</td><td>[REDACTED]</td></tr><tr><td>[REDACTED]</td><td>[REDACTED]</td></tr><tr><td>[REDACTED]</td><td>[REDACTED]</td></tr><tr><td>[REDACTED]</td><td>[REDACTED]</td></tr><tr><td>[REDACTED]</td><td>[REDACTED]</td></tr><tr><td>[REDACTED]</td><td>[REDACTED]</td></tr><tr><td>[REDACTED]</td><td>[REDACTED]</td></tr><tr><td>[REDACTED]</td><td>[REDACTED]</td></tr><tr><td>[REDACTED]</td><td>[REDACTED]</td></tr><tr><td>[REDACTED]</td><td>[REDACTED]</td></tr><tr><td>[REDACTED]</td><td>[REDACTED]</td></tr><tr><td>[REDACTED]</td><td>[REDACTED]</td></tr><tr><td>[REDACTED]</td><td>[REDACTED]</td></tr><tr><td>[REDACTED]</td><td>[REDACTED]</td></tr><tr><td>[REDACTED]</td><td>[REDACTED]</td></tr><tr><td>[REDACTED]</td><td>[REDACTED]</td></tr><tr><td>[REDACTED]</td><td>[REDACTED]</td></tr></table>		Organisation	Attendee Name	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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APOLOGIES	[REDACTED] -Breeder Elite																																							

KEY POINTS DISCUSSED

Welcome

Brian Dooher started by welcoming everyone to the first ESG meeting. Highlighting that the minister has made Equine Traceability a priority.

Philip Johnston suggested that everyone introduce themselves and the organisation that they are representing.

Terms of Reference

Philip Johnston started with a run through of the terms of reference. [REDACTED] asked if the PSNI could have two seats due to [REDACTED] covering a different work area that involved equines. No one raised an objection to this.

The TOR was agreed.

Equine Traceability

[REDACTED] began with a presentation of the work that Equine Traceability branch has taken forward and plans for future work.

Brian Dooher left the meeting due to other commitments

[REDACTED] invited questions and feedback [REDACTED] raised a point of congratulations to the equine traceability branch on the simplification of the registration form after feedback on useability.

[REDACTED] left the meeting but rejoined

[REDACTED] asked what enforcement actions would look like for operators who did not comply.

[REDACTED] said that enforcement wouldn't be implemented at this stage but would be kept under review and use other measures such as the need for an EEN to apply for a passport to increase compliance.

[REDACTED] asked who the agency would be to enforce compliance.

Philip Johnston said that it would be DAERA but at this stage unsure what form it will take.

[REDACTED] queried about livery horses at Cafre. [REDACTED] explained that for habitual residence, horses that stay for 30 days or more needed to be recorded.

[REDACTED] asked would an EEN be needed for all changes to an equine passport and how would PIOs confirm correct EEN given to which [REDACTED] confirmed it would be needed for all applications or changes made to passports and that until the EEN portal was released that DAFM would update PIOs on valid EENs

[REDACTED] asked if vets with inpatient stables would need to apply and who would be responsible for recording the movement of horses on and off the premises. Nichola explained that the surgeries would need to have an EEN and they would be responsible for keeping records of equines who had stayed in the stables.

Disease Control

██████████ gave a presentation on equine disease control there where no questions after the presentation.

Equine Welfare Responsibilities and Travel to Shows and Competitions

██████████ gave an outline on Equine Welfare roles and responsibilities and travelling to shows and competitions.

██████████ asked if during a welfare complaint the complainant would be notified of the actions taken.

██████████ said that there would not be individual follow ups with complainants but that press releases were issued if prosecution had taken place to inform parties. ██████████

██████████ said that there is also an alert sent between PSNI, DAERA and Councils of names connected to animal cases to ensure relevant bodies are aware of previous histories.

██████████ asked if the travelling changes covered both long and short journeys and movement to GB for competition. ██████████ confirmed that it would involve both

Germinal Products

There was no update from Germinal Products.

Equine Movement

██████████ gave a presentation regarding the movement of horses through ports in regard to their welfare and health during transport.

██████████ asked how horses could return to NI from GB. ██████████ explained that you need to prove that the horse is resident in NI and that you would get a letter to allow return from Belfast portal staff when you present the horse for its outward journey.

Veterinary Medicine

██████████ from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate gave an update in the availability of veterinary medicines in NI.

██████████ asked if there would be any concerning gaps in the availability of medicines. ██████████ responded that there was a small number of products that are a concern but that the cascade scheme and other schemes in place could overcome this concern.

██████████ apologised but had to leave the meeting.

Operation Gallop- PSNI

██████████ gave an overview of the PSNI's work on operation Gallop and welcomed any questions or suggestions.

██████████ mentioned that she was glad that EENs could possibly benefit the police in their work in the equine sector.

██████████ also said that EENs and the future traceability of equines would help in cases of stray horses. ██████████ mentioned regarding safeguarding that it may be of benefit to devise some system to license livery yards similar to Scotland. ██████████ welcomed the suggestions and asked if anyone had other suggestions or questions or information that she is happy to be a point of contact.

AOB

No AOB

Next proposed date of meeting 29th April 2026

Philip Thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

ACTION POINTS/OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE/TARGET DATE: None

**Minutes written
by:** ██████████
██████████

Date: 11/11/25