



Equine Anti-Doping Report

For The Six Months Ending 31st December 2022

Issue 4 - February 2023

Executive Summary

In mid-2022 the Review of the IHRB Equine Anti-Doping Programme (EADP) by Dr. Craig Suann was published. It concluded that the IHRB EADP does “at least match international best practice in most respects and has made significant advances in recent years.” A number of recommendations were made that Dr Suann noted were “capable of enhancing the robustness of the programme”. Progress is ongoing regarding the operationalisation of these recommendations over the next 12 months, with several already implemented.

During 2022, 3,549 and 598 samples were taken at all 388 Racecourse fixtures and 94 Point to Point fixtures respectively. Additionally, a further 1,256 samples were collected at 197 stable inspections across 25 counties by IHRB Authorised Officers, with a total of 5,417 samples were taken and analysed over the course of the year. Just over 23% of our samples were taken during Out of Competition

Testing, which is consistent with previous years. This will remain a priority as we continue to focus on taking the right sample from the right horse at the right time.

Of the 5,417 samples, 11 (0.2%) returned an adverse analytical finding. Four of these cases have been heard by a Referrals Committee of the IHRB, with further Referral Hearings to take place in due course.

While the overall number of samples taken was 9% lower than the comparative figure in 2021, the IHRB worked closely with the International Federation of Horesracing Authorities certified, LGC laboratory, to carry out more extensive analysis of certain samples in addition to the standard analysis of the full 5,417 samples taken throughout 2022. Approximately 320 samples were subjected to further analysis beyond standard practice as we continue developing and refining our approach to Raceday and Out of Competition Testing.

Equine Medication Control Seminar

In November, the IHRB hosted a Seminar on ‘Equine Anti-Doping and Medication Control: Understanding Your Responsibilities’. The seminar was opened by Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue, who gave a comprehensive overview of the relevance of medication control in the context of the IHRB’s integrity work, and of the importance of strong integrity functions in securing racing’s place in Ireland and internationally.

Following over 18 months acting as Authorised Officers under the Animal Remedies legislation we wanted to share our experiences and assist industry participants to understand their responsibilities in the use of equine medicines. The session was primarily

aimed at trainers, as those responsible for the appropriate use of medication in horses in training and racing under the IHRB Rules of Racing and Irish National Hunt Steeplechase Rules, but was also of relevance to Veterinary Surgeons treating those horses, stable staff, and others with an interest in how the IHRB fulfils its role to protect the integrity of racing in Ireland including in relation to the use of medicines.

We were delighted to be joined by our colleagues Dr Ellen Hegarty and Dr Caroline Garvan from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine who provided extensive detail relating to veterinary medicines and antimicrobial resistance.

The Seminar can be accessed by [this link](#).

Screening Findings

The IHRB remains focused on education and on prevention as key to good regulation in Equine-Anti Doping. We actively use any information we can to assist participants to comply with their responsibilities in relation to medication control, such as via our management of laboratory findings that are reported to us. When a sample is analysed by LGC, it first undergoes a screening stage. This is the point at which the laboratory may report seeing part of a substance's characteristic 'fingerprint'. The laboratory then carries out further confirmatory analysis to determine whether or not the substance is present – the 'fingerprint' is filled out to either a definitive finding, or a negative report.

If it is confirmed, then that is reported as an adverse analytical finding in the A sample. If not, then it is reported as a screening finding. We follow up on screening findings where appropriate with the relevant trainer by requesting the Medicines Register and looking for the substance in question. If there is a match, then it may be a question of suggesting that the withdrawal time needs to be lengthened. If the substance is not recorded, we may ask LGC to complete the confirmatory analysis to establish unequivocally whether it was present in the sample. In either event, we engage further with the trainer in order that they can learn from what may have been a near miss and hopefully avoid a similar issue going forwards.



Clenbuterol

Clenbuterol is a licensed veterinary medicine when prescribed at normal therapeutic doses for the treatment of respiratory disease in horse(s) which needs it and as such is permitted to be used under the Rules of Racing in Ireland as in most other racing jurisdictions. It is, however, a drug that may be misused if it is given to horses without respiratory disease for its partitioning, or muscle build up, effects. If clenbuterol is detected in any matrix – blood, hair, or urine – it will be followed up and evidence such as prescriptions and associated records will be sought to confirm that it is being used only for valid veterinary therapeutic reasons.

Trainers should be aware that, notwithstanding this clinical use, there has been recent recommendation from the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities that the use of clenbuterol be regulated via more specific restrictions. We support these measures because they will enable those who wish to continue to use this licensed medication properly to do so whilst not allowing scope for its misuse. Further detail will be published in due course. In the meantime, we remind trainers of their obligations to use clenbuterol responsibly, with proper veterinary involvement and oversight, and to document its use correctly.



IHRB Operational Activity

The following is a sample of the raceday and out-of-competition activity carried out in 2022.

Raceday

JULY TO DECEMBER

RACES	BLOOD	URINE	HAIR	PRE RACE TESTING	TOTAL	ADVERSE ANALYTICAL FINDINGS
1,556	325	1,318	106	98	1,847	4
2022 TOTAL						
2,877	662	2,401	276	210	3,549	5

Point-to-Point

JULY TO DECEMBER

RACES	BLOOD	URINE	HAIR	TOTAL	ADVERSE ANALYTICAL FINDINGS
184	184	0	0	184	2
2022 TOTAL					
592	598	0	0	598	2

Out-of-Competition/Inspections

JULY TO DECEMBER

PREMISES VISITS	BLOOD	URINE	HAIR	TOTAL	ADVERSE ANALYTICAL FINDINGS
107	152	0	224	375	3
2022 TOTAL					
197	594	0	662	1,256	4

Monthly breakdown of Out-Of-Competition tests

	URINE	BLOOD	HAIR	TOTAL
July	0	33	83	116
August	0	37	41	78
September	0	44	41	85
October	0	38	38	76
November	0	0	0	0
December	0	0	21	21
JUL-DEC	0	152	224	376
2022 TOTAL	0	594	662	1,256

Follow up investigations post AAF

JULY TO DECEMBER

INVESTIGATIONS	BLOOD	URINE	HAIR	TOTAL
3	16	0	17	33
2022 TOTAL				
4	41	0	42	83

*A further 14 miscellaneous samples were taken in 2022 and tested by LGC Laboratories

Monthly breakdown of all Raceday and Point To Point samples

	FIXTURES (PtoP)	RUNNERS (PtoP)	RACE URINE	RACE BLOOD	RACE HAIR	PRE RACE TESTING	POINT TO POINT	TOTAL
July	42 (0)	3,536 (0)	264	62	45	51	0	422
August	39 (0)	3,252 (0)	235	63	25	0	0	323
September	38 (0)	3,556 (0)	244	63	30	18	0	355
October	37 (11)	3,496 (450)	244	45	2	0	66	357
November	27 (12)	2,589 (560)	161	52	0	0	73	286
December	27 (7)	2,351 (377)	170	40	4	29	45	288
JUL-DEC	210 (30)	18,780 (1,387)	1,318	325	106	98	184	2,031
2022 TOTAL	388 (94)	34,783 (5,042)	2,401	662	276	210	598	4,147

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Irish racing's continued strength and hard-earned reputation as a global leader is dependent on participants, stakeholders, and the public all having confidence in the integrity of the sport. Strong regulation is vital if we are going to sustain the strength of this industry on a national and global scale and retain the trust of stakeholders and the public.

Breaches of Rules or Regulations should be taken extremely seriously and dealt with strongly. This is to ensure Irish racing adheres to the highest standards of integrity and animal welfare. Every person involved in the industry has a role to play in that regard.

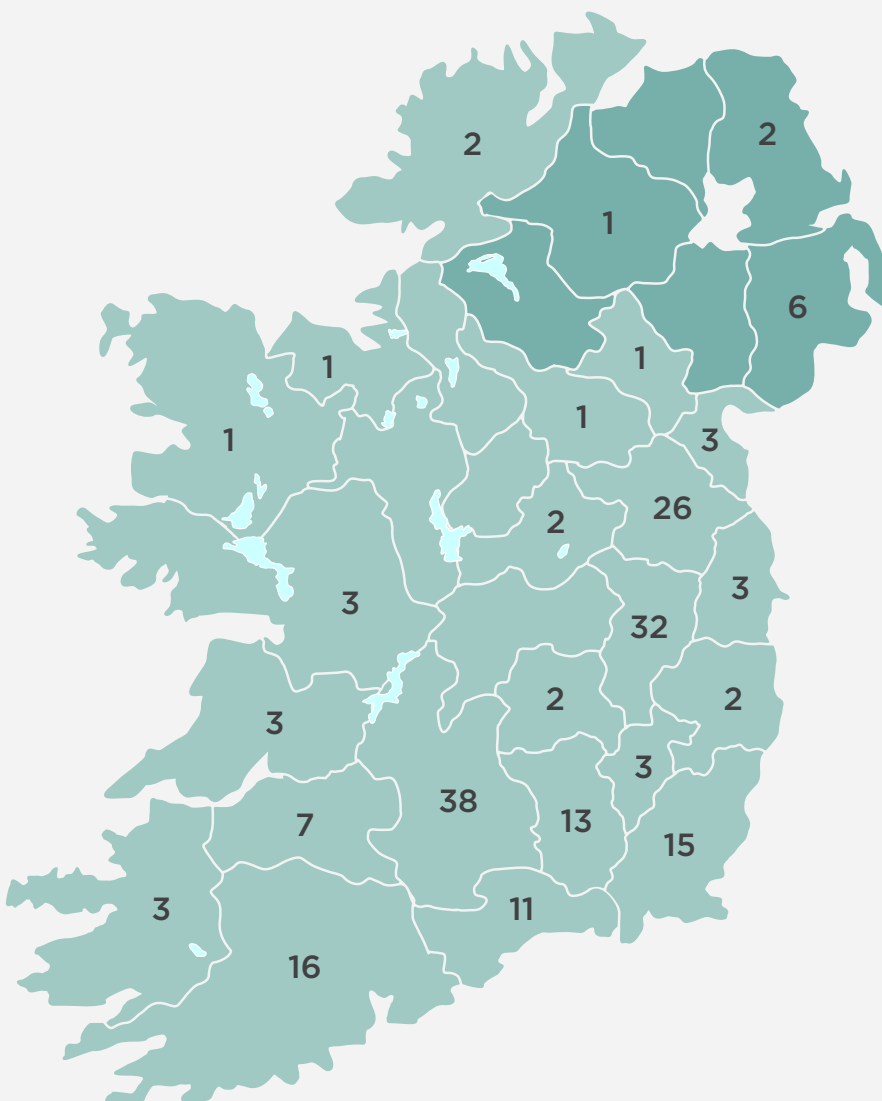
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Minister Charlie McConalogue

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine,
speaking at the IHRB Equine Anti-Doping Seminar

Map of Inspections and OOCT in 2022



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I am pleased to see further development of the equine anti-doping programme during the period of this report as we continue to refine our approach and progress the recommendations of the Suann Review, while protecting the reputation of Irish racing by efficiently processing the small number of adverse analytical findings through to hearings.

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Darragh O'Loughlin

IHRB Chief Executive Officer



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Our key priority is always to continue delivering the highest standards of testing and associated activity possible. Working with our contracted laboratory, the internationally acclaimed LGC, we continue to adapt, develop and refine our testing processes and capabilities to progress delivery of the key recommendations made by Dr Suann in his 2022 Review. Future provision of laboratory services to the IHRB will go out to tender in 2023, which will bring further advances. Further changes to raceday sampling will be introduced in

2023 to include increased routine Pre-Race Testing on a risk-based and intelligence led basis with an element of random, which is consistent with other leading racing jurisdictions. This year will also see a refinement of our testing of non-winners. Finally, I am delighted to welcome Dr Graham Adams who has joined us as Deputy Head of Veterinary Operations and to welcome back Veterinary Officer Dr Sarah Ross from maternity leave. Together, we are looking forward to leading the veterinary and AO team in this work.

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Dr Lynn Hillyer

IHRB Chief Veterinary Officer/Head of Anti-Doping

