



# Equine Anti-Doping Report

For The Six Months Ending 31st December 2021

Issue 2 - January 2022

## Executive Summary

**In 2021, the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board CLG (IHRB) inspected 141 premises on an intelligence-led/risk-based basis, 30 of which were unlicensed and so accessed as Authorised Officers working closely with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). 1,668 samples were taken on 56 of these premises, which maintained the proportion of Out-Of-Competition-Testing (OOCT) at 28% of the total 5,952 samples taken.**

We consolidated and developed our new Authorised Officer team to deliver this, supported by our colleagues in DAFM and other agencies.

As we strive to progress in line with best international practice, an independent audit by Dr. Craig Suann, formerly the Chief Veterinary Officer of Racing New South Wales in Australia for 33 years, began at the start of this year, while pre-race testing was introduced in September of last year.

## Latest update

**Anti-doping activity continued to grow strongly throughout 2021. Since July we have taken a further 3,503 samples, 10 of which (0.29%) confirmed as Adverse Analytical Findings (AAFs), the investigations of which are currently being finalised.**

May 2021 saw the IHRB obtain warrant cards from DAFM which gave us unparalleled access to any Thoroughbred, in any place, at any time. This further strengthened our long-standing relationship with DAFM. Throughout the year we have worked very closely with DAFM in a number of areas and we look forward to continuing this association in 2022.

The IHRB was invited to a meeting of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine in July to address it about our Equine

Anti-Doping strategy, processes and high-profile media coverage of Equine Anti-Doping in Ireland.

The committee issued a report in November which highlighted the importance of the Irish horse racing industry. We would once again like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the committee for their time over the course of our two meetings and their considerations resulting in the comprehensive report. We look forward to implementing several of the recommendations set out in their report. Progress has been made in many of these areas already.

In September 2021, the IHRB initiated pre-race testing and analysed 253 samples, none of which returned an AAF.

## Independent Equine Anti-Doping Audit



Dr. Craig Suann

Dr. Craig Suann is carrying out an independent Equine Anti-Doping audit which began earlier this year.

Formerly the Chief Veterinary Officer of Racing New South Wales, he was responsible for veterinary regulation within the Thoroughbred racing industry in the state of New South Wales (NSW), Australia. He held this role for a total of 33 years, commencing with the previous regulator, the Australian Jockey Club, in 1985.

He has advised Racing NSW and the broader industry on veterinary, drug policy, equine welfare and integrity assurance matters, and was involved in managing drug related research in racehorses in collaboration with the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL). He has played a key role in national

and international policy development in the fields of equine health and welfare and drug control in racing and is also a current and long-standing member of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) Advisory Council on Equine Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Practices and the IFHA Horse Welfare Committee.

Dr. Suann will audit the IHRB's Equine Anti-Doping plans, policies and procedures as they relate to the IHRB's Strategic Plan 2019-2023 and the report issued last year by the Joint Oireachtas Committee. He will assess what has been achieved and what is still to be done with recommendations on how to achieve these objectives as a priority. The IHRB's Equine Anti-Doping strategy will be examined in the context of strategies and best practices employed by other racing regulators.



## Testing – It’s About More Than Numbers



Our work in the Equine Anti-Doping area has continued to develop in the second half of last year with almost 6,000 samples being taken in 2021. Every regulatory sample taken is analysed at LGC, a world-leading laboratory, with blood, hair and urine all used to achieve coverage in terms of the type of substance, the concentration at which it is present and the time during which it can be detected.

We have continued to consolidate and develop the new Authorised Officer team who deliver the inspection and OOCT programme whilst also remaining focused on ensuring that our on-track test distribution plan has progressed in line with best international practice.

We are in the fortunate position to be working with one of the best laboratories in the world, specialists in the analysis of biological doping threats, anabolic steroid chemistry, hair analysis and even most recently, gene-doping. It was important that we updated our sample selection on track to take advantage of this expertise that LGC has, building on the foundation of traditionally taking urine samples, predominately from winners.

This allows for a degree of unpredictability to be built into our intelligence-led/risk-based test distribution plan. It’s not a one size fits all approach – by taking the right type of sample at specific times, we achieve more confidence in our results than by just taking more of the same type of samples. It is critical that different types of samples, or matrices, are used to their strengths.

There have been several occasions last year where the IHRB raceday teams have worked together to respond to intelligence with activity including targeted testing, searching of horse transport, and working with other agencies. We are guided by the main principle of our Equine Anti-Doping strategy to take the right sample from the right horse at the right time. Some substances only show up for a very short period of time, most likely in blood. Others can be deposited in hair and be evidenced over months and years. Others are best confirmed as having been administered to the horse by the detection of metabolites in urine. Understanding which matrix to use at which time needs a combination of science, intelligence, and co-ordination across the different departments, in particular our colleagues in the Stewarding and Security teams.

## IHRB Operational Activity

The IHRB's Equine Anti-Doping strategy has evolved in recent years to operate on a sophisticated risk and intelligence basis backed by rigorous processes of investigation and follow-through in the event of an adverse analytical finding. As essential as it is to take enough samples, we must focus on taking the right sample, from the right horse, at the right time.

### Raceday

#### JULY TO DECEMBER

NO. OF RACES	BLOOD	URINE	HAIR	PRE RACE TESTING	ADVERSE ANALYTICAL FINDINGS
1,623	399	1,423	243	253	10
2021 TOTAL					
3,021	704	2,651	314	253	20

### Out-of-Competition/Inspections

#### JULY TO DECEMBER

PREMISES VISITS	BLOOD	URINE	HAIR	ADVERSE ANALYTICAL FINDINGS
123	375	0	366	12**
2021 TOTAL				
141	690	0	690	12**

### Monthly breakdown of Out Of Competition tests

	OOCT URINE	OOCT BLOOD	OOCT HAIR SAMPLES	TOTAL
Jul	1	30	25	56
Aug	0	3	0	3
Sept	0	192	162	354
Oct	0	60	59	119
Nov	0	100	243	343
Dec	0	48	48	96
Jul - Dec	1	433	537	971
2021 Total	4	777	887	1,668

By doing this, we maximise the likelihood that we will detect prohibited substances if they are there, deter those who might be drawn to try to cheat through doping and disrupt inappropriate activities.

The following is a summary of the sampling activity carried out in the six months ended December 2021.

### Point-to-Point

#### JULY TO DECEMBER

NO. OF RACES	BLOOD	URINE	HAIR	ADVERSE ANALYTICAL FINDINGS
209	214	0	0	2
2021 TOTAL				
356	362	0	0	3*

### Follow up investigations post AAF

#### JULY TO DECEMBER

NO. OF INVESTIGATIONS	BLOOD	URINE	HAIR
10	58	1	171
2021 TOTAL			
20	87	4	197

### Monthly breakdown of all raceday samples

	RACE URINE	RACE BLOOD	RACE HAIR	PRE RACE TESTING	POINT TO POINT	TOTAL
Jul	282	72	0	0	0	354
Aug	256	60	0	0	0	316
Sept	237	62	32	136	12	479
Oct	295	92	85	80	73	625
Nov	183	63	54	3	81	384
Dec	170	50	72	34	48	374
Jul - Dec	1,423	399	243	253	214	2,532
2021 Total	2,651	704	314	253	362	4,284

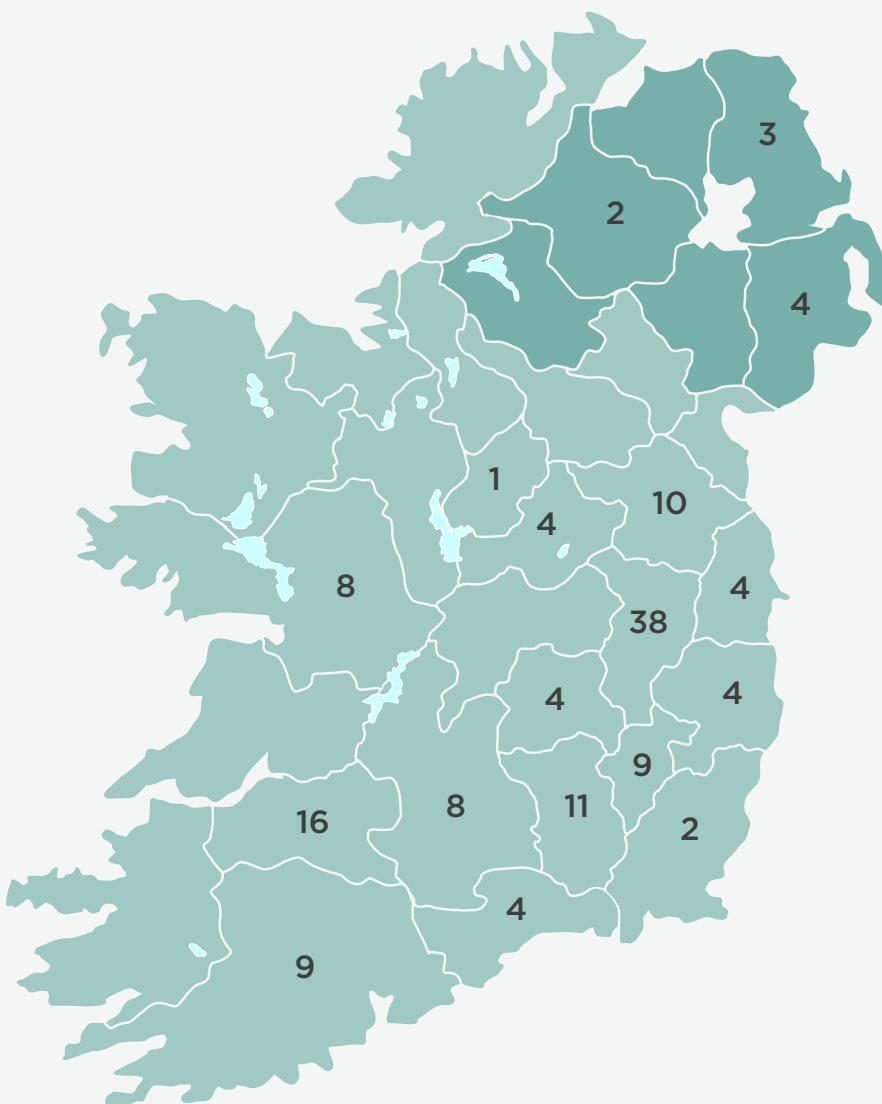
\* One Adverse Analytical Finding relates to June and was not confirmed until the second half of the year

\*\* This figure has been updated to reflect further Adverse Analytical Findings related to samples taken during this period which were confirmed in 2022





## Map of Inspections and OOCt in 2021



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The IHRB continues its work with our Officials, Stewards, licensees and DAFM to ensure the integrity of Irish horseracing. We look forward to Dr. Suann's report and any recommendations that may contain. In parallel with our extensive testing regime, education will be a focus for 2022 however we continue to remind all participants of their obligations under the Rules of Racing. The IHRB will not tolerate the misuse of substances in Irish Horseracing and will deal with cases in accordance with the rules and in line with international standards.

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**Clíodhna Guy**

IHRB Interim Chief Executive Officer

## Plans for 2022

With a strong emphasis on continued expansion of our operational activity in 2021 we will revisit further education and communication about Equine Anti-Doping to participants in the first half of 2022 to reiterate and re-emphasise information originally presented in 2018.

A full public procurement process for the provision of our laboratory services will start in 2022 and we also look forward to receiving Dr Suann's report and acting on any recommendations when they are available.

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It has been a busy year, which included our transition to working as Authorised Officers. With the strong support of our colleagues in the DAFM, we have covered a lot of ground. We are committed to acting proportionately and sensibly with a focus on explanation, prevention and deterrence and we will continue to develop our work with DAFM in 2022.

Getting the Authorised Officer team established was one of the goals in the

area of Equine Anti-Doping. We have also introduced significant variation into our raceday testing, established an intelligence led/risk-based process to manage our inspections and OOCT, and implemented digital solutions, via Apps and tablets to handle the data gathered during our stable inspections. I want to again thank the IHRB veterinary, and wider team along with participants for working so hard against the backdrop of the pandemic to make this happen.

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**Dr Lynn Hillyer**

IHRB Chief Veterinary Officer/Head of Anti-Doping

