

1. Member body engagement - could BEF provide a summary of any work that has been done to date with member bodies in regard to this project, including detail of expectation of member bodies following the initial findings through Power of Horses and Social Impact research.

To date, BEF has not set any specific actions or expectations for member bodies as a direct result of this project. However, the findings from the Power of Horses research sits well alongside related work already undertaken within the sector, including RDA's recently published Impact Report and BHS Changing Lives Through Horses programme.

Member bodies are engaged in the project and will continue to play an active role, particularly through sharing their knowledge and insight into both the challenges and strengths within the sector, as outlined in the tender. Consultation with member bodies are a critical part of the proposed methodology, both to help clarify and priorities policy asks and to ensure a shared understanding of how we can work collectively as a federation on policy development and advocacy activity.

2. It is noted that a workshop is requested as part of the deliverables. Where is this to be held and will BEF be facilitating the attendance of the member bodies and equestrian stakeholders? Have BEF considered the impact on the project if member bodies or stakeholders don't attend the workshop?

Yes, BEF will facilitate the workshop, which will be held in Warwickshire close to the head offices of many of our member bodies. BEF will support and coordinate attendance from member bodies and stakeholders to ensure broad representation. We recognise the importance of inclusive engagement and would ensure that all member bodies can contribute and input information.

We acknowledge there is a risk to the project if participation is limited, this will be actively managed for the workshop, and we already have various research and working groups that capture insights from our member bodies to help manage this and will give an opportunity for member bodies to provide feedback after the workshop, particularly for those unable to attend.

3. Advocacy toolkit development - are BEF hoping that all materials needed for lobbying, influencing and communications are provided within budget for this tender (£13000)?

The budget available for this first phase of the work is £13,000, which includes VAT and project costs. If your proposal goes above this amount, then a clear rationale for a slight overspend against this budget is required and a full breakdown of costs, to show how resource is being allocated across the project.

4. Could BEF confirm that they do not require any further research to be undertaken and that the outputs are to be solely based upon the Power of Horses report?

This stage of work is focused on the policy asks rather than the commissioning of further primary research. While the Power of Horses report will form key evidence base, BEF also has a range of existing reports and insights, including work on the Health of Riding Establishments and other relevant sector research, which may be drawn upon to help inform and contextualise the outputs.

No additional research is expected beyond policy analysis and a necessary understanding of the existing landscape, and we are not seeking the production of a new research report.

5. With reference to policy analysis (identifying current regulations, rates and tax frameworks impacting riding schools and develop recommended reforms and case examples) - some regulations, rates and tax frameworks are devolved in Scotland and Wales. Does BEF wish for recommendations to cover the whole UK, therefore including devolved policy and regulations where required within recommendations?

Yes, as British Equestrian, it is important that recommendations reflect the whole UK. This should therefore include consideration of devolved policies, regulations, rates and tax frameworks where relevant, to ensure the outputs are inclusive and enable BEF to effectively support its full audience across all nations.

6. Do you have more information on the issue of licensing? Any examples of the inconsistent administering of licenses across local authorities and what you want from this?

- it would be good to see where this workstream has reached

*A working group of BEF, BHS, ABRs+, PC and RDA has been established to focus on licensing that meets quarterly to co-ordinate our lobbying to government under a united approach as we campaign for an improved, consistent process. The BHS is leading and has made considerable progress towards 'assured advice' which outlines how councils should implement licensing guidance. In addition, The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 have been reviewed, and feedback has gone to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for their consideration.*

This workstream is ongoing and led by BHS who have set up a primary authority relationship with The City of London to advise and give guidance on the council licensing process. The licensing process is a cost recovery process from the council which means there continues to be inconsistent pricing and placement of the licensing teams within local authorities.

7. Do you have more information on the success, or not, that equestrianism organisations have had in securing Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) status?

Based on our knowledge the majority of riding schools and equestrian facilities operate as sole traders or private limited companies, which do not meet the requirements necessary for CASC.

8. When you refer to tax and investment parity with other sports and rural sectors do you have any specific ones in mind?

At this stage, there are no specific tax or investment measures being targeted. The reference to parity is intended to explore how business rates for riding schools compare with other leisure and sporting facilities, such as leisure centres, in areas including business rates and boarder financial support. The aim is to understand where inconsistencies may exist and to identify opportunities.

9. Are you able to share a top-line description of your current funding agreement with Sport England and the investments/funding performance criteria committed to

In our previous annual report, we detail the funding we receive from our major funders – [Annual report](#)

10. Does your budget of £13,000 include or exclude VAT? So for those organisations who are VAT registered it would be £10,800 plus VAT = £12,960?

Yes, it includes VAT. Anything that falls beyond this should be detailed and a reason given along with a breakdown of costs.

11. What is the internal resource (personnel) you have available to deliver an advocacy and lobbying programme – it makes sense to be try and be realistic in your presentation to the scale of what you can do – not just with budget but with people

At this current stage of policy ask formulation, the management of the project will come from myself (the research and insights manager). There is also active engagement and involvement from across the senior leadership team, particularly our head of communications, head of development and our CEO who will be involved in this project, as well as active interest across the federation.

When it comes to actioning the advocacy and lobbying programme, this will represent the next phase and decisions or aligning resource and capacity will be made based on the outcomes of this policy formulation phase.

12. Do you currently run any form of equestrian sector wide lobbying/public affairs group?

The BEF CEO sits on the British Horse Council, which acts as a sector-wide body with established connections to DEFRA and represents the interests of the equestrian sector, with a big proportion of their focus being on equine welfare. However, one of our member bodies The British Horse Society have taken a major role in the campaigning for road safety of horses and riders, as well as other topics such as fireworks.

The focus of this project will be to better advocate for the equestrian sector to help protect and sustain our facilities.

13. How much of a focus do you place on generally devolved institutions in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland in your public affairs activity? Are you active in engaging with stakeholders in the nations, or are you generally more focused on Westminster?

Although a significant proportion of our funding comes via Sport England, we are committed to ensuring that our policy asks and expectations consider the devolved nations. The purpose of this project is to help up identify the asks and opportunities, which may include the appropriate channels and stakeholders for engagement, which will include consideration of all the British nations.

14. Do you have a preferred format for the submission of a written tender response? And are there any word or character limits that we need to be aware of?

Other than adhering to the requirements outlined in the tender document, it is up to the responding individual/organisation to decide on the format and style of their submission. We do not have a set word count or character limit.

15. Is BEF interested in, or considering, generating additional data as part of this phase (for example through polling or surveys), and would you welcome proposals that integrate this alongside existing evidence?

The primary focus of this phase is to translate the existing evidence and insights into clear actionable policy asks. BEF already has access to a substantial body of research including the Power of Horses findings, work on the health of riding establishments, alongside input from member bodies. Therefore, we are not actively seeking to generate more data at this stage.

However, if a proposing organisation identifies a significant evidence gap that would materially strengthen the development of the policy asks, this could be considered as part of their proposal.

16. Does BEF currently hold data on the location and distribution of riding schools and equestrian facilities, and if so, would this be available to the appointed supplier?

Yes, BEF holds a facility database which includes information on riding schools in the UK and member body-affiliated equestrian facilities which will be made available to the appointed supplier.

17. Where does BEF feel it currently has strong relationships within government and public bodies, and where would you most like to develop or strengthen those relationships through this advocacy work?

BEF currently has established engagement through its involvement in the British Horse Council, particularly in relation to DEFRA and has contributed in some All-party parliamentary groups around outdoor recreation. However, a key objective of this project is to draw on the expertise of the appointed individual or organisation to help identify which government departments, public bodies and political channels that should be further developed or strengthened based on the policy asks that emerge from the work.

18. Does BEF have any existing relationships with patient groups or health charities, particularly for conditions where there is strong evidence of the benefits of equestrian activity?

BEF has an established and successful partnership with Sport in Mind, which provides links to NHS services at a local level, including engagement with CAMHS groups. Additionally, Riding for the Disabled groups often have good local level relationships. Advocating for more of these relationships is a potential interest and opportunity for this project.