

# THE BRITISH HORSE SECTOR WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU

## Size

- **3.2m**  
voters who are riders
- **1.82m**  
voters who regularly ride
- **51%**  
of ex-riders want to ride again
- **~1m**  
horses
- **250,000**  
people employed  
(directly and indirectly)

## Value

- **£9bn**  
contribution to the UK economy
  - £5bn non-racing
  - £4.1bn racing
- **Second largest**  
rural employer
- **£500m+**  
value of overseas trade
- **18,000**  
equestrian businesses

## Breadth

- Inclusive physical activity linking urban and rural communities
- Highest proportion of sport participants:
  - who are women
  - who are over the age of 45
  - who are disabled
- Programmes for those facing mental, social, physical challenges and for disengaged young people
- Women and men competing on an equal basis

## Profile

- Global leader in horseracing, equestrian sports (including Olympic and Paralympic), and breeding
- Horseracing is the UK's second largest spectator sport
- International pioneer in equine welfare standards
- Soft power asset
- Source of inward investment to the UK



# HOW GOVERNMENT CAN HELP THE BRITISH HORSE SECTOR TO FLOURISH

## Partnerships

- Aligning legislation across devolved administrations
- Supporting a national disease protection plan
- Regional sharing of dedicated animal welfare officers
- Co-designing policy with industry

## Equine Health and Welfare

- Passing and enforcing legislation for digital equine ID and traceability
- Advancing high standards of horse health and welfare
- Addressing shortages of veterinarians and vaccines
- Mitigating the risks of drug resistance
- Licensing or registering equine businesses and charities
- Reviewing the prosecution process and court system for handling welfare cases
- Supporting equine research through the horserace betting levy and other funding sources

## Business

- Helping us to recruit and retain a skilled workforce
- Introducing a “smart”, appropriate and welfare friendly border process
- Championing our world-leading racing, breeding and horse sports sectors and our native breeds
- Helping to develop existing and new markets for British equestrian products

## Opportunities

- Promoting the physical and mental health benefits of human horse interactions
- Protecting riding schools and providing inclusive inner-city opportunities
- Supporting farm diversification to create new horse businesses
- Improving sustainable access to safe on and off-road riding
- Expanding educational opportunities and apprenticeships
- Growing trade and inward investment
- Enhancing natural habitats and biodiversity and improving sustainable land use

