

EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY INTEGRITY UNIT REPORT

Foreword by Lord John Stevens, Chairman, Quest Global Ltd

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Fifteen years ago, at the personal request of HRH Princess Haya, Quest assisted the FEI in establishing an industry-leading independent integrity unit that continues, to this day, to service the sport across many areas. The International Federation community looked to the FEI as pioneers in the integrity space, demonstrating best practice in sports governance. This is evidenced by the FEI ranking consistently at the top of the ASOIF Governance Review for Integrity with an independent reporting, whistleblowing and investigation function being key indicators.

Whilst we can be incredibly proud of what has been achieved together over the past fifteen years, innovative ideas come along, and industry standards change, and so the time has come for the FEI to adopt a modernised format for the Equestrian Community Integrity Unit (ECIU).

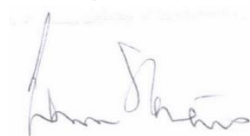
We have been privileged to work with the FEI, national federations and local organisers at many major events, including the London, Rio, Tokyo and Paris Olympic Games; the Lexington, Normandy and Tryon World Equestrian Games and a great number of Championships, Nations Cup and World Cup events held elsewhere.

Although the Paris 2024 Olympic Games marked the end of Quest's active day-to-day management and my Chairmanship of the ECIU, we look forward to assisting the FEI in the future by representing the ECIU with the same specialist expertise which we have provided over the last fifteen years, whether as independent investigators, by deploying surveillance systems or overseeing elections.

I would like to extend my personal thanks and gratitude to those leaving the FEI, both Catrin Norinder and Tim Hadaway for their professionalism and support over the years. Our team worked closely with Tim at many Olympic and World Games and his guidance and influence has been essential to the success of our operations.

Lastly, I offer my congratulations to Ingmar on his election to President of ASOIF and wish you all the success when your term begins on 1st January 2025.

Yours,



Lord John Stevens

13 November 2024, Abu Dhabi (UAE)

The past twelve months have seen the ECIU investigate matters and provide expert analysis to the FEI Legal Department with regard to establishing the veracity of evidence. With the wider equestrian community providing imagery to the FEI, and the increased availability and capability of image manipulation software, it is imperative that the integrity of the evidence is demonstrated.

Alongside investigations, a second area of the ECIU's remit is to deploy CCTV surveillance systems to major events within the FEI calendar. This year the ECIU installed the system at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games capturing, recording and storing video footage through the event. Regardless of the time of day, there was live oversight of people, horses, equipment and belongings, bringing an additional level of security and peace of mind to athletes, grooms, teams and owners.

A third element is managing the reporting hotlines of the ECIU. Reports were triaged on a case-by-case basis with a substantial proportion filed and stored whilst further intelligence was sought to progress with an investigation. Assistance from the wider Equestrian community in coming forward with information, greatly assists investigations. Without the support of the Equestrian Community, we can only go so far to ensure those responsible for their negative impact on the sport are held accountable.

The data below shows how the ECIU recorded the information received through the hotline from the equestrian community over the past five years. For the period October 2023 to September 2024, the ECIU received an unprecedented seventy-one unique reports to the hotline. This is a staggering increase compared to any previous twelve-month period since the reporting mechanisms were established, accounting for over 20% of the total reports since 2010. It is also more than double the next highest year (34 reports in 2011-2012).

The notable change here was the significant increase in reports concerned with horse welfare. This can be partially attributed to the recent high-profile cases which have encouraged members of the wider equestrian community to report matters they feel deserve investigation. However, a percentage of these reports fall under the jurisdiction not of the FEI, but of the national federation or even local governmental services.

Horse welfare reporting is undoubtedly going to continue to rise as the equestrian community becomes more alert to the behaviour of athletes and trainers, especially away from FEI events, and because they can see that action is being taken by the FEI to clamp down on mistreatment of horses.

In addition to horse welfare, there has been a significant increase in reports related to request for information and the category "Other", which encompasses all other

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types of reporting, such as civil disputes, press requests, horse passport matters and national federation issues. We often redirect individuals to their national federation as many of the alleged breaches or concerns fall under their jurisdiction, rather than that of the FEI.

Members of the Equestrian Community who have concerns about the behaviours or practices of individuals engaged in the sport are urged to use the reporting mechanisms available.

Reports can now be submitted to the FEI via the new FEI Reporting Hub (<https://inside.fei.org/fei/fei-reporting-hub>).

Data received to the ECIU hotline

Table 1. Category break down and comparison of reports received by the ECIU in 2023-2024 against the previous cycle and the annual moving average.

<u>Category of Information</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>Average Annual Total</u>
1. Conflict of Interest	3	1	0.73
2. Misconduct	4	1	3.60
3. Doping	2	2	3.53
4. Regulatory	6	5	2.60
5. Request for Information	11	2	2.40
6. Safeguarding	3	2	1.40
7. Horse Welfare	30	9	5.80
8. Other (e.g civil matters)	12	1	2.07
Annual Total	71	23	22.13

Table 2. Breakdown of how the reports to the hotline were triaged

Number of reports	How triaged
37	Stored on file as no further correspondence received or not within FEI jurisdiction
26	Forward to FEI for their consideration or FEI/other party responded directly
7	Referred informant elsewhere (e.g. specific FEI Department, national federation etc.)
1	Report delivered to FEI (+1 that began in the previous cycle)
71	Total Reports

Figure 1. Categories reported to the ECIU in the past five years

