



T: +44 20 7224
www.quest.co.uk



4004 T: +44 20 7935 5822
report@equestrianintegrity.com

Equestrian Community Integrity Unit – 2019-2020 Report

by Lord John Stevens
Chairman, Quest Global Ltd
Chairman, Equestrian Community Integrity Unit

The year 2020 has been unprecedented in terms of how sport has had to function with the restrictions placed upon us by the Covid-19 pandemic. This incredibly tough year globally has been a test of our financial and mental wellbeing. Small businesses and livelihoods have been greatly affected, social behaviours transformed and above all, loved ones lost. It is in times like these that we cannot underestimate the importance of coming together as a community to support one another and offer a helping hand if we are in a position to do so.

In doing so, the Equestrian Community will become stronger and more aware of the incidents that negatively impact our sport. At the ECIU, we regularly discuss with stakeholders the importance of reporting issues and wrongdoing and standing up for the ethics of this great sport. We can only act when people come forward and help our investigations, provide eye witness accounts and supply us with evidence to assist the FEI in their pursuit of Clean Sport. Integrity in sport is more critical than ever and upholding the rules and values put forward by the FEI is central to maintaining the position as a world leader in sports governance.

The ECIU remit covers many aspects, however the output from this twelve-month cycle has been significantly impacted by the pandemic. The ECIU visited the venue for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in January to prepare for the event by testing our latest surveillance equipment for compatibility. Investment will be made in the new system which will enable live monitoring and recording throughout events that will assist in the safety and wellbeing of both people and horses on site for the Games. The cancellation or postponement of many Equestrian events this year has reduced our activity in this regard however it has enabled us to develop other areas of the unit. Further investment has been made in the market leading CLUE case management software which will be the hub of all information reported to, and gathered by, the ECIU.

Whilst there have been no major events to attend and deploy the CCTV surveillance system, the ECIU have continued to operate the Integrity Hotline and conduct a range of investigations throughout 2020.

For the time period of October 2019 to September 2020, we received 17 unique reports to the Hotline. A large number of these are filed for our records and monitored for any further information whilst some have led to investigations that have been conducted by our experienced team. As I touched on earlier, assistance by the wider Equestrian community in coming forward with any information whether deemed significant or not will greatly assist our investigations. Without the community support, we can only go so far as to ensure those responsible for the negative impact on our sport are held accountable.

The following data details how the ECIU records the information received through the hotline and the graphs indicate the trends that are taking place within the Equestrian Community over the past five years. We can see that this year there has been a twenty percent drop in the number of reported incidents to the ECIU compared to the previous twelve months and the lowest since 2015/2016. Misconduct allegations continue to be the highest reported category for the second year running and this may be due to individuals becoming more aware of issues and confident in reporting incidents of this type.

Horse welfare allegations have dropped to below the average we have seen over the past ten years and we encourage continued identification of incidents that cause concern. There have been no Safeguarding allegations made within this twelve-month cycle and whilst both could be considered positive, I would continue to urge any member of the Equestrian Community that has concerns about behaviours and practices of individuals to contact the ECIU where your identity will remain anonymous if you so choose, as the welfare of the Equestrian Community, horse and human, is of the utmost importance.

The ECIU can be contacted through the hotline on +44 207 935 5822 or by email at report@equestrianintegrity.com

Data received from ECIU hotline

Table 1. Category break down and comparison of reports received by the ECIU between October 2018 to September 2019 and October 2019 to September 2020.

<u>Category of Information</u>	<u>10/2019-09/2020</u>	<u>10/2018-09/2019</u>
1. Conflict of Interest	1	1
2. Misconduct	5	8
3. Doping	3	1
4. Regulatory	4	3
5. Request for Information	0	2
6. Safeguarding	0	1
7. Horse Welfare	3	5
8. Other	1	0
Annual Total	17	21

Table 2. This table shows the average annual total since the data was recorded in 2010 against the total reported for the twelve months between 10/2019-09/2020

	<u>10/2019-09/2020</u>	<u>01/2010-09/2020</u>
Average Annual Total vs 10/2019-09/2020	17	19.18

Fig 1-8. Trend of categories reported to the ECIU in the past five years



