

## **Privacy Notice for the UK Central Equine Database of Equine Passports**

The purpose of this Privacy Notice is to inform you, as an equine owner, of the use that Defra will make of the personal data that you supply when applying for an equine passport.

Defra's Personal Information Charter, which gives details of rights in respect of the handling of personal data, is on the [Defra section of Gov.uk](#).

### **Who is collecting your personal data?**

Equine owners must register details of their equines with a Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO) so that the PIO can issue an equine passport (under EU Regulation 2015/262 as retained in UK law). In addition, where an equine is imported, owners must register the passport details with a UK PIO. This applies to equines imported after 1 July 2009 from a non-EU country and to equines imported after 1 January 2016 from an EU Member State.

The PIOs retain the information provided (including any further changes made) on their database and add the information to the UK Central Equine Database (CED) which is managed by Equine Register Ltd (a Defra contractor). Defra's Food Standards Agency (FSA) use this information on CED to check whether an equine presented for slaughter can safely enter the human food chain.

### **What information is being collected?**

The information collected for an equine passport is as follows:

- Owner name
- Owner address
- Equine UELN (Universal Equine Life Number)
- Equine microchip
- Issuing PIO
- Passport Serial Number (if relevant)
- Passport ID or PIO reference (if relevant)
- Date of issue of passport
- Animal Status ("Registered" or "Breeding and production")
- Food Chain status
- Pet/stable name of equine
- Official name of equine
- Species
- Gender of equine
- Colour of equine
- Date of Birth of equine

- Country of Birth of equine
- Country of Holding

## **Who is processing your personal data?**

### Defra (including the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), an Executive Agency of Defra)

Defra is the Controller who both authorises PIOs in England, and through its contractor Equine Register Ltd, maintains the CED. The CED collects information from PIOs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and from the Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society Ltd (SAOS) for PIOs in Scotland. The CED provides a single dataset of equines resident in the UK that are registered with PIOs in the whole of the UK.

The PIOs are Controllers in respect of the personal data that they have individually collected in order to issue their equine passports.

### Devolved Administrations

Devolved Administrations are Controllers in respect of personal data relating to equine owners in their jurisdiction (i.e. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) or equine owners registered with a PIO that the Devolved Administration has authorised. The Scottish Government has contracted the Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society Ltd (SAOS) to operate an equine database in respect of equines registered with PIOs in Scotland, and to upload information from that database to the UK CED.

### Enforcement Authorities, including Local Authorities and the Police Service

Enforcement Authorities are Controllers in respect of personal data relating to equine owners that they obtain or create themselves, as necessary for the fulfilment of their official functions.

## **What will the data collected be used for?**

Defra will mainly use the information for the following purposes:

- (1) to comply with and enforce the requirements of EU Regulation [2015/262](#), as retained in UK law following the UK's departure from the EU;
- (2) to fulfil its functions in relation to safeguarding public health, animal disease control, animal health and welfare;
- (3) to carry out statistical analyses of non-personal information from CED to inform Government policy development and for analyses and planning purposes. Also, to contact equine owners in connection with improving the quality of legally required data on UK CED;
- (4) to search the CED by microchip or UELN to verify equine(s);
- (5) to enable enforcement agencies (e.g. Local Authorities or Police Service) to investigate alleged breaches of any laws and to take enforcement action as appropriate, and to identify the owners of equines that have been stolen

or strayed onto public roads or other land, so as to take appropriate action, including reuniting owners with their equines. Also, to enable the Fire and Rescue Services to deal with incidents involving equines that require their action;

- (6) to enable the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to check details relating to equines that have been or are to be slaughtered to ensure that any equines not fit for human consumption do not enter the human food chain. If the FSA's checks identify discrepancies, the FSA will notify the relevant Local Authority either directly or via the PIO with which the equine was registered. The FSA will also enter certain information into CED, including the dates of slaughter of equines;
- (7) to share data with Devolved Administrations for the purpose of improving the quality of data on the CED;
- (8) to provide information to Member States of the European Union (MSs), as required. Articles 39 and 40 of EU Regulation 2015/262 requires MSs to cooperate in the use of their databases that are equivalent to CED, including sending information updates to other MSs that issued an original passport and allowing enquiries from other MSs regarding microchip number, Unique Life Number or passport number;
- (9) to allow owners to check what information CED holds on them via the Digital Stable (DS). The DS is a system linked to the CED which is provided by Equine Register (who are contracted by Defra). The DS enables owners to review their data held on the CED in a secure environment within the DS. The owner can inform a PIO if their data is incorrect via a secure message service facilitated within the DS. The PIO upon receipt of the message will review and update the CED via their administration system.
- (10) to allow the general public to search for an equine on Equine Register's National Chip Checker using its microchip number, UELN or Passport Number for verification purposes. This will not reveal either the identity of or other personal data relating to the equine owner; and
- (11) to share equine owners' data if we are required to do so by law - for example, by court order, or to prevent fraud or other crime. Information may also be required to be released on request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 or the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (including equivalent laws in Scotland).

Beyond the processing mentioned above, no other data will be shared or disclosed to any other party without your explicit consent. We will not: sell or rent your data to third parties; or share your data with third parties for marketing purposes.

### **What is Defra's legal basis for processing your data?**

Your personal data is being processed by Defra in order to comply with a legal requirement under Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/262, as retained in UK law following the UK's departure from the EU. Defra processes your data under Article 6(1)(e) of the GDPR, where processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public

interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller. The official authority is the legislation mentioned above, and it is also a task in the public interest

### **How long will we keep your data?**

Defra has a retention schedule for the CED data where it is held for a minimum of 35 years or for a period of two years post the reported death of the animal. This is in line with the PIOs, that are legally required to keep the data for this long and to keep the CED up to date. It therefore is necessary for the central database to match this timescale. Defra also needs to maintain the data for 35 years, whilst the equine is expected to be alive, for public health, disease control, traceability and welfare purposes. This may include the prevention or investigation of fraud in relation to the human food chain.

Personal data is deleted from the CED upon reaching the end of the required retention period for any data field held in the UK CED. Defra may require retention of data fields that are not Personal Data for the purposes of detecting fraudulent activity (e.g. a record of every microchip ever held in the UK CED) and maintaining an evidence base for policy development (e.g. information about the equine population in the UK).

### **Who can you contact on data protection issues?**

Defra's Data Protection Manager can be contacted with any questions about how we are using your personal data and your associated rights at:

**Address:** Data Protection Manager, Data Protection Team, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Area 1E, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR.

**Email:** [data.protection@defra.gov.uk](mailto:data.protection@defra.gov.uk)

The Data Protection Officer responsible for monitoring that Defra is meeting the requirements of the legislation is available at:

**Address:** Defra Group Data Protection Officer, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, SW Quarter, 2nd floor, Seacole Block, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF.

**Email:** [DefraGroupDataProtectionOfficer@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:DefraGroupDataProtectionOfficer@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

### **What are your rights?**

A list of your rights under the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 is accessible at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/individual-rights/>

You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the ICO (supervisory authority) at any time. Should you wish to exercise that right full details are available at: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/your-personal-information-concerns/>