

Document 2

From: [Redacted text]>

Sent: 08 October 2020 15:40

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
<MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted text]; Voas S (Sheila) <Sheila.Voas@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]

Subject: PS/Minute – MiCase Ref: 202000095087

PS/Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

PS/Minute – MiCase Ref: 202000095087

To provide background information to a recent MiCase from Dr Alasdair Allan MSP who has written to the Scottish Ministers on behalf of the Comann Each nan Eilean – The Eriskay Pony Purebred Studbook Society (CEnE) raising concerns on the definition of the breed, Eriskay pony.

Background

The correspondence relates to a longstanding dispute between CEnE and The Eriskay Pony Society (EPS) over breed definition. EPS were recognised in their own right as a 'Mother' Society in 2018, however, prior to this they were a 'daughter' Society to CEnE. This meant CEnE set the stud-book rules for the 'Mother' and 'Daughter' societies. The main issue being that CEnE only register 100% purebred equines (breeding animals which can be traced back to the original studbook) and EPS registered breeding animals with a purity level of 97% and above. This led to the breakdown in relationship between the two societies.

This has led to extensive correspondence, over two decades, between both the Scottish Minister and officials, to try and resolve the issues between the two societies. A substantial investment of time and resources have gone into trying to resolve the issues, however, we have been met with assertion by CEnE that EPS ponies were not the same breed as those registered by their Society.

In July 2014, CVO Scotland, wrote to both Societies asking them to collaborate with the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST) on a breeding programme to ensure the future conservation of the Eriskay pony breed. We were allocated funding through RESAS to work with RBST with a view to ensuring the viability of the breed. EPS confirmed their wish to collaborate with us on the proposed research, and subject to committee decision were open to investing some of their own funding budget towards the project. We did not receive a response from CEnE and at this point RBST officially ended their working relationship with CEnE due to a lack of transparency relating to breed data.

In 2016, EPS submitted an application to become recognised as a Mother Society in their own right. After a detailed review in collaboration with RBST, we agreed that there was no legitimate reason not to recognise EPS and conversely, rather than endanger the preservation of the animals, we were of the view that they were helping

to increase their numbers. RBST and EPS continue to work together on the conservation of the breed.

This MiCase has likely been initiated following the appointment of a new Chairperson and Committee members.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text] | Disease Control Branch | Animal Health and Welfare Division | Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Delivery

Scottish Government | P Spur | Saughton House | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD

Tel [Redacted text] Mob [Redacted text] | Email: [Redacted text] [Redacted text]



REDACTED VERSION