
From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 08 February 2021 14:40

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Public Space - Covered Arenas

Dear [ED]REDACT

I wonder whether you can help us move forward with an issue which has been flagged by our Approved Centre team, which is becoming increasingly problematic. We are waiting for the guidance for Local Authorities to appear on the OPPS portal. [REDACTED] has been very supportive and [ACT]RED and [REDACTED] have shared the draft FAQs with us for comment. However they still refer to exercising horses only taking place in a public space. It was previously agreed, via SportEngland and DCMS, along with Defra that as the usual place to safely exercise a horse would be in an arena, the public space requirement does not apply in this case.

Below is the proposed FAQ document, point 6, with the area of concern highlighted in yellow. If it can be removed and the text in red added that would be ideal and will save backtracking to the previous "public space" situation.

6. Members of the public may continue to exercise/ride a horse they own or care for to maintain the horse's health and welfare. This is covered by the exception to the stay at home provisions for animal welfare and exercise. This can be with their household or support bubble, or – in a public outdoor place - with one other person, subject to [social distancing rules](#). Riding instruction on a one to one basis, delivered by a coach, can take place in an arena at a riding centre or on private property as this is where riding and instruction would normally take place.

We have also discussed this with [REDACTED] and she is in agreement with the proposal. It may be that removing the reference to a public outdoor space is sufficient.

Your help moving this along would be greatly appreciated. If we could discuss this in this afternoons meeting it would be most helpful

Best wishes

[ED]REDACT

[REDACTED]

The British Horse Society

Abbey Park, Stareton,
CV8 2XZ

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED] Website:

Coronavirus threatens the existence of our riding centres..

Donate today to help support the future of thousands of horses during these uncertain times. Please consider making a donation at: www.britishhorsesociety.givesafely.org/ or text 'HORSE' to 70507 to donate £5. Thank you

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 05 January 2021 17:00

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: BHS & LGAWG - COVID-19 advice

Does 5.30pm suit? I'll circulate an invite shortly – [REDACTED] if either of you are around please also feel free to join.

[REDACTED]

Companion Animal Welfare

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 05 January 2021 16:55

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: BHS & LGAWG - COVID-19 advice

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your quick response. I can be available at anytime to suit. Can you suggest a time please.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]
]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 05 January 2021 16:47

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: BHS & LGAWG - COVID-19 advice

[REDACTED]

Would you have time for a quick call to discuss this?

Please let me know when you're available and it might be helpful to talk this through via MS Teams or zoom.

[D]REDACTE

Companion Animal Welfare

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 05 January 2021 16:33

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: BHS & LGAWG - COVID-19 advice

Dear [D]REDACTE

Now that we have read the initial lockdown guidance and have had queries and feedback from riding schools the use of the phrase "riding arenas at riding centres" is causing a lot of confusion. As we understand riding schools/centres should close and cease activity with members of the public. The actual arenas are still required to facilitate safe exercising of horses by staff and horse owners to maintain the welfare of the horses during the lockdown. We have some riding schools looking for loopholes and asking whether they can still provide lessons or hack out with clients which does not require the use of arenas. Riding arenas should be closed for public hire and competitions which we agree with.

Could the guidance and subsequent legislation be changed to clarify that it is riding schools which are required to close and riding arenas which are closed for public hire.

Many thanks

[TED]RED
AC

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 04 January 2021 17:36

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: BHS & LGAWG - COVID-19 advice

Dear [ED]REDACT

Happy new year to you as well and to all those on cc. Please accept my apologies for not coming back to your earlier email on this subject until now.

As I mentioned to you, we have been waiting on central clearance of guidance similar to those bullet points we shared with you in November to help interpret what T4 restrictions mean specifically for various equestrian activities (including exemptions) as we appreciate this has caused some confusion for both LAs and riding centres. In light of this evening's expected announcement, we anticipate there could be further changes to this (though this is not confirmed), so I will continue to keep you informed as best we can and be in touch when we have more clarity for you.

Thank you for your (ongoing) patience,
Best,

[D]REDACTE

Companion Animal Welfare

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 04 January 2021 10:33

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: BHS & LGAWG - COVID-19 advice

Dear [D]REDACTE

Happy New Year.

Are you able to provide an update on the proposed changes to the requirement for indoor riding arenas closing in Tier 4? Over the holiday break we have had reports from at least one LA stating that indoor arenas must not be used despite earlier confirmation that they are in fact classed as covered arenas and more in line with agricultural buildings and have been able to remain open.

I expect that we will have more riding schools asking for clarification on this point if LAs interpret the guidance literally without consideration for the previously acceptance that covered riding arenas are permitted for use with Covid risk assessments in place.

Are you also able to share any insight into any further restrictions that may come with a further period of lockdown. The continuation of one to one exercise of horses on welfare grounds would be a primary consideration for any further restrictions.

Many thanks for your help with these issues.

Best wishes

[TED]REDAC

