

Illegal farriery activity

The Farriers Registration Council maintains the Register of Farriers and may, in the interests of equine welfare, take out prosecutions against unregistered persons.

The Council investigates all allegations of illegal farriery activity where sufficient information is available. If you have any information regarding any alleged illegal farriery activity you are requested to report it to the Council. It may not be possible to take out a prosecution on your report alone, but your information may help to build a fuller picture regarding a suspect and assist an investigation.

In order to bring a prosecution it is always necessary to have a witness statement made by either a Registered Farrier, a member of the public or a Council investigator. Any person is also free to make their own complaint to the police.

How to report illegal activity

If you have any information regarding illegal farriery activity please contact the Farriers Registration Council by any of the following means:

- telephone on **01733 319911**
- e-mail to **frc@farrier-reg.gov.uk**
- visit the website **www.farrier-reg.gov.uk** and follow the links to 'About Farriery' and then 'Illegal Farriery'

All information relating to allegations of illegal farriery is treated as confidential, and personal information will only be divulged to investigators with your agreement.

Farriers Registration Council
14 Swan Court, Forder Way, Peterborough PE7 8GX
Telephone: 01733 319911 E-mail: frc@farrier-reg.gov.uk

Farriers Registration Council



Established under the
Farriers (Registration) Act 1975

Is your farrier registered?



**Use a Registered Farrier for your own
peace of mind and for the welfare of
your horse or pony.**

The Farriers (Registration) Act 1975

The Farriers (Registration) Act 1975 aims to:

"prevent and avoid suffering by and cruelty to horses arising from the shoeing of horses by unskilled persons; to promote the proper shoeing of horses; to promote the training of farriers and shoeing smiths; to provide for the establishment of a Farriers Registration Council to register persons engaged in farriery and the shoeing of horses; to prohibit the shoeing of horses by unqualified persons; and for purposes connected therewith."

Farriery is defined in the Act as:

"any work in connection with the preparation or treatment of the foot of a horse for the immediate reception of a shoe thereon, the fitting by nailing or otherwise of a shoe to the foot or the finishing off of such work to the foot."

What does this mean for me?

Under the Act only the following may practice farriery:

- Registered Farriers
- Approved Farrier Apprentices
- Veterinary Surgeons or Trainees
- Persons giving first aid in an emergency situation

For others to do so is a **criminal offence** which can result in a fine of up to £1000, legal costs and a criminal record.

Registered Farriers are recognised as being qualified either by examination, training or experience to carry out work properly and safely and are also expected to abide by a code of professional conduct.

Unregistered persons are breaking the law, and:

- You will have no comeback in law
- You may invalidate your insurance if they lame or otherwise injure your horse or pony
- You may be aiding and abetting a criminal act

How can I tell if my farrier is registered?

The Farriers Registration Council issue the following annually to Registered Farriers and both are clearly marked with the year of validity:

- A personal Registration Card
- A badge on the windscreen of the vehicle

If you have any doubts or if you have difficulty in finding a Registered Farrier, you can access the Register online at www.farrier-reg.gov.uk or telephone the Council for assistance on **01733 319911**.

What type of qualification could my farrier have?

The main farriery qualifications include:

Diploma '**DipWCF**', formerly **RSS**. The prescribed examination for admission to the Register of Farriers, normally taken at the conclusion of the Advanced Apprenticeship in Farriery.

Associateship '**AWCF**', formerly **AFCL**. This examination is taken by those who already hold the Diploma or RSS and concentrates on therapeutic shoeing and remedial farriery.

Degree '**BSc (Hons)**'. This examination is taken by those who already hold the DipHE.

Certified Military Farrier '**CMF**', formerly **Class II**. An army farriery qualification equivalent to the DipWCF.

Diploma of Higher Education '**DipHE**'. This is a course for professionally qualified and practising Registered Farriers already working within the industry.

Fellowship '**FWCF**'. As with the Diploma 'DipWCF' and the Associateship 'AWCF', the Fellowship 'FWCF' is awarded by the Worshipful Company of Farriers.

Military Training Farrier '**MTF**', formerly **Class I**. An army farriery qualification equivalent to the AWCF.

Apprentice farriers must be indentured to an Approved Training Farrier (ATF) and may practise farriery on behalf of their ATF as they undergo their apprenticeships. The ATF remains responsible for their supervision and quality of work until they are eligible for registration themselves.