

Farriers Registration Council



Established under the
Farriers (Registration) Act 1975

Your Disciplinary Hearing

A Guide to assist Registered Farriers with
understanding the sanction given by the
Disciplinary Committee

**REMOVAL FROM THE REGISTER WITH A
DIRECTION BY WAY OF S15(7) OF THE
FARRIERS REGISTRATION ACT**

September 2025

Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to assist you to understand the stages taken by the Disciplinary Committee of the Council (the Committee) in reaching their decision, the sanction directed by the Committee and the way forward following your hearing.

What is the Standard of Proof applied at my hearing?

The standard of proof is the standard applied in civil cases, namely the Committee must be satisfied on the balance of probabilities that the alleged facts have been proved.

Your hearing

The Committee met and considered the complaint against you. Your hearing consisted of three successive stages: first; the facts, second; serious misconduct in any professional respect, and third; sanction. What the Committee decided at each stage will have determined whether the hearing progressed to the next stage.

Stage One – The Facts

- The Committee found some or all of the facts (the charges) as set out in the Notice of Inquiry were admitted or proved to the civil standard, that is on the balance of probabilities.

Stage Two – Serious Misconduct in a professional respect

- The Committee decided that the facts found proved amounted to serious misconduct in a professional respect.

- The Committee may have considered the submissions, the mitigating and aggravating factors (insofar as they related to the conduct found proved) when determining the issue of serious misconduct and any breaches of the 'Farrier, Approved Training Farrier & Apprentice Code of Professional Conduct' when reaching its decision.

Stage Three – Sanction

Having found that some or all of the facts which were found amounted to Serious Misconduct in a professional respect, the Committee then considered what sanction to impose. The Committee considered the available sanctions in ascending order of severity beginning with the option of making no sanction. The purpose of a sanction is not to punish but to protect the public interest, the reputation of the profession and the welfare of animals.

The option/sanctions below were available to the Committee:

- make no direction / take no further action.
- postpone judgment until a later date set by the Committee.
- issue a reprimand and/or a warning as to your future conduct.
- suspend your registration for a specified period of time, usually not exceeding a period of two years.
- direct that the Registrar should remove your name from the Register.

What sanction did I receive, what does it mean and how does it affect my ability to carry out farriery?

The Committee directed the sanction of a removal from the Register and made a direction by way of a section 15 (7) of the Farriers (Registration) Act 1975 (FRA) which prohibits you from making an application for restoration to the Register until the period specified in the direction has concluded.

You have the right to appeal to the High Court or, in Scotland, to the Court of Session. The appeal must be lodged within 28 days after receiving notification of the Committee's direction. The Committee's direction itself will not take effect until after the 28-day period has expired or until any appeal has been heard or determined.

In the absence of an appeal and after the 28 day period, you may not carry out any acts of farriery as defined in the Act, until an application to be restored to the Register is accepted by the Disciplinary Committee, and it would be a criminal offence for you to do so. Application for restoration to the Register of Farriers will require you to satisfy the Committee that you are fit to return to practice. If you notify the Council that you wish to make an application, as long as the period directed by the original Committee under section 15(7) has come to an end, a hearing will be listed before the Committee and you will be invited to attend. Restoration of your name to the Register of Farriers is solely at the discretion of the Committee following formal consideration of your application at a hearing.

You are advised to make alternative arrangements to cover the farriery needs of your clients during the period of your removal, and to advise your clients accordingly. You are prohibited from carrying out any acts of farriery when removed from the register, and it would be a criminal offence for you to do so. You may carry out trimming for an unshod horse.

What happens after the hearing?

Following the hearing you will receive a written Notice of Determination from the Council's solicitor and the FRC, which will confirm the decision of the Disciplinary Committee.

If a removal from the Register has been directed, this will not take effect until after the period for the submission of any appeal has closed. Appeals must be lodged within 28 days of being notified of the decision, with the High Court or, in the case of farriers resident in Scotland, with the Court of Session. The removal will not take effect until the appeal period has expired or, if an appeal has been lodged, until the outcome of that appeal has been determined.

In the absence of an appeal (28 days after being notified of the decision) the Council will write to you to confirm the removal from the Register of Farriers.

You are unable to carry out farriery during the removal from the Register and it would be a criminal offence for you to do so.

"Farriery" means 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.

How do I reapply for Restoration to the Register?

Only the Committee may restore your name to the Register and would do so only if, following a hearing, the Committee is satisfied that you are fit to be restored to the Register. Should you believe you are fit to be restored, and the expiration of the period directed has concluded, you should make an application to the Council .

In this instance you should contact the FRC office where a member of the staff will assist you.

Will the outcome of the hearing be published?

Yes. The determination and decision of the Committee shall be published on the FRC website and in the FRC Bulletin, (anonymously as part of statistical data) the FRC Annual Report and the FRC may issue a press release.

Elements of the determination and decision may be redacted from the published version where it includes information about minors, the registrant's health, the health of others, or any other sensitive information, but such issues are likely to have been heard in private and will not form part of the public determination or public decision in any event.

The determination and decision will be posted on the FRC website with the caveat "pending appeal". Following the outcome of an appeal or the expiry of the appeal window, the words "pending appeal" will be removed and the determination and decision will remain on the FRC website for the relevant period as set out in the summary table.

FRC Website

The Council shall publish the determination and decision on the website following the hearing for the length of removal plus 2 years.

FRC Bulletin

The Council shall publish the determination and decision in the next Bulletin publication following the hearing.

Press Releases

The Council may issue a press release following each hearing at which a sanction of removal is directed.

FRC Annual Report

The FRC Annual Report shall set out anonymised data in respect of the work of both statutory committees (including outcomes of disciplinary hearings). The purpose of so doing is to provide a record of the business of both committees.

PUBLICATION SUMMARY TABLE REMOVAL FROM THE REGISTER

OUTCOME	PUBLICATION TIMESCALE	PUBLICATION LOCATION
Removal from the Register	Length of removal plus 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FRC Website• FRC Bulletin• Press Release• FRC Annual Report (Anon)

Will the outcome of the hearing remain on my record?

Yes. Findings of fact found proved by the Disciplinary Committee (and the ensuing decisions on serious professional misconduct and sanction) will remain on your record permanently.

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