

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

SUSPENSION FROM THE REGISTER

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 proved amounted to Serious Misconduct in a professional respect, the Committee considered what sanction to impose. The Committee then 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 options/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 specified period of suspension from the Register.

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 the period of suspension comes to an end.

It would be a criminal offence for you to carry out acts of farriery until the period of suspension has expired, after which time your name will be restored to the Register, providing that (as with all Registered Farriers) your registration to practise farriery is maintained through the payment of the annual retention fee. Failure to make payment regarding the retention fee will prohibit restoration. You are advised to make alternative arrangements to cover the farriery needs of your clients during the period of suspension, and to advise your clients accordingly. You may carry out trimming for an unshod horse.

Records relating to this matter will be retained on file indefinitely.

What happens after the hearing?

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

If suspension 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 suspension 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 suspension from the Register of Farriers.

As noted above, you are unable to carry out farriery during the suspension period 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.

During your period of suspension you should make alternative arrangements to cover the farrier needs of your clients and you should advise your clients accordingly.

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 DC hearing for the length of the suspension plus seven (7) months.

FRC Bulletin

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

Press Releases

The Council may issue a press release following the DC hearing at which a sanction of suspension 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.

PUBLICATON SUMMARY TABLE SUSPENSION FROM THE REGISTER

OUTCOME	PUBLICATION TIMESCALE	PUBLICATION LOCATION
Suspension from the Register	Length of suspension plus 7 months	<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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