FARRIERS REGISTRATION COUNCIL
HELD AT THE FARRIERS REGISTRATION COUNCIL, 14 SWAN COURT, FORDER WAY, CYGNET PARK, HAMPTON, PETERBOROUGH PE7 8GX

FARRIERS REGISTRATION COUNCIL

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DANNIELLA LOUISE GRAY

DECISION ON APPLICATION FOR RESTORATION TO THE REGISTER

The Committee heard and accepted the advice of the Legal Assessor. He advised that the procedure for a restoration application was by way of a hearing on evidence. He advised in accordance with section 15(7) of the Farriers Act 1975 and Rule 9 of the Rules. The Legal Assessor advised that the onus was on an Applicant to demonstrate that they should be restored to the register, by demonstrating that they were capable of practising farriery safely and that their character and conduct since removal were such that they were effectively a fit and proper person to practise as a Registered Farrier. The Committee noted that the application form completed by Miss Gray, included the guidance for applicants seeking restoration and has used that as a basis for its decision.

The Committee read the bundle of papers from the FRC which included Miss Gray's application and also read and received the written submissions from Mr Collis on behalf of the FRC.

Miss Gray gave evidence on affirmation and was questioned by Mr Collis and the Committee.

The Committee was satisfied that Miss Gray was open and honest in her evidence, and dealt with personally difficult issues with frankness and candour. The Committee accepted her evidence.

The Committee went on to deal with the guidance as set out in the correspondence from the FRC.

a. The seriousness of the original findings leading to removal from the register

The previous restoration Committee had found the following;

The Committee considered that the original findings leading to removal from the register were serious. The original Committee had determined that Miss Gray's conduct had amounted to a "blatant and wilful disregard of the systems that regulate the profession," which had been "reckless, premeditated and

sustained and repeated over a significant period of time." This Committee did not disagree with that characterisation, although it noted Miss Gray's oral evidence today regarding the personal circumstances which she had been experiencing at the time. The Committee was also of the view that Miss Gray had not attempted to minimise or justify her lack of co-operation with the FRC, noting that she both apologised and accepted that her lack of communication had been unacceptable.

Whilst accepting this assessment, this Committee also bore in mind that the issues that had lead to Miss Gray being removed from the register were due to her administrative failures rather than her professional competence.

b. Any potential risks to equine or animal welfare if the applicant were to be restored

Bearing in mind the reason set out above for her removal from the register the Committee accepted Miss Gray's evidence that she recognised the potential risks that could occur in farriery. The Committee accepted that Miss Gray now has systems in place that would deal with any issues that might arise. The Committee noted that she had been keeping her practical professional knowledge up to date by shadowing a Farrier for a day a week for the past six months whilst working within the limits of her unregistered status, and that she had maintained her farriery knowledge through CPD days and online learning. She gave clear examples of what she had learned from those exercises to the Committee which accepted her evidence.

c. Protection of the public, public interest and the reputation of the profession

The Committee bore in mind that the issues that has caused Miss Gray to be removed were due to administrative rather than practical failures. She spoke about her ability now to access assistance both from her personal network and from the FRC itself.

d. The extent of the applicant's insight into the conduct which led to removal from the register

Having established insight it is clear to the Committee that she has equipped herself with the skills and knowledge which allowed her to be compliant with the regulations. The Committee is satisfied that she has removed herself from an unhealthy situation which was the cause of the regulatory issues and now has the chance to deal properly with communications from her regulator.

She has demonstrated she can be open about issues and concerns with the FRC, friends and other appropriate professionals.

The Committee noted that she now described the FRC as an 'umbrella' under which farriers are regulated and the public and the profession are protected.

e. The length of time since removal from the register (taking into consideration any direction by the Disciplinary Committee regarding a "minimum" time period prior to any application, noting that there is no automatic right to restoration after that time period)

f. The applicant's conduct since removal from the register

g. Evidence demonstrating efforts by the applicant to keep up to date in terms of knowledge, skills and developments in practice, since removal from the register (accepting that he or she must not perform farriery during the period of removal).

The Committee decided it was appropriate to deal with all three of these areas as one, bearing in mind the facts of this case.

The Committee noted that Miss Gray was removed from the Register in June 2023. The Committee was impressed that this was her second attempt at restoration, demonstrating her commitment to returning to practice. The Committee also noted the references she has obtained, and her shadowing of a fellow Farrier. The Committee accepted that she had also undertaken CPD, had engaged with online learning, and had remained connected to the equine world through her work.

The Committee also accepted that she has worked hard to improve her mental and physical health and has made significant efforts to support this application to be restored to the register.

Taking the evidence holistically the Committee was satisfied that she had made significant progress over the period since her last application. She has come from a difficult personal starting point and has transformed her life.

The Committee was satisfied that she has good insight into her personal and professional limitations and she has clearly put thought into how she would manage things going forward. She is clearly looking at her long-term professional life through better management of a very demanding job.

The Committee was satisfied, whilst also accepting that there is always inherent risk in the profession, that there is a very low risk of repetition as she has removed the external factors that caused her previous behaviour and has got support structures in place.

h. The level of any support from members of the public and/or former and prospective clients.

The Committee noted that Miss Gray does not just have the written references that she placed before it but also had an identifiable support network both professionally and personally.

The Committee was impressed with her passion for the Farrier profession and noted that Miss Gray said she will continue shadowing her Farrier colleague for a period if she is restored and noted that she is fostering and maintaining friends in the Farrier community.

The Committee accepted that there is a strong public interest in maintaining the registration of good professionals in a specialised field.

The Committee was satisfied that there is a very low risk of repetition, and that Miss Gray has remediated the issues that brought her before the original Committee and is satisfied that she has managed to return to her previous self.

Having assessed all these factors, the Committee unanimously concluded that Miss Gray has met the persuasive burden on her to satisfy it that she could safely be restored to the Register of Farriers.

Accordingly, Miss Gray’s application for restoration is granted.