# Post Enactment Report
# Horse Racing Ireland Act 2016 (No 2 of 2016)

**(Dail Eireann – Standing Order 164A replacing Standing Order 141A)**

**(Seanad Eireann Standing Order 137A)**

**December 2019**

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## Background

The President signed the Horse Racing Ireland Act into law on 8 February 2016.

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 17, 19, 20 and 21 of the Act came into operation on 15 March 2016 when then Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine Mr.Simon Coveney TD signed Statutory Instrument (S.I. No. 138 of 2016) on 9 March 2016.
Sections 5, 8, 11, 14, 15 and 16 of the Act came into operation on 01 January 2017 when the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine Mr. Michael Creed TD signed Statutory Instrument (S.I No. 629 of 2016) on 16 December 2016.
Section 12 of the Act become operational on 01 January 2019 when the Minister signed Statutory Instrument (S.I No. 648 of 2018) on 19 December 2018.

## Current Status

The legislation strengthens governance and transparency within horseracing, increases efficiency through streamlining of certain administrative operations, clarifies the respective functions of Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) and the Racing Regulatory Body (RRB), and strengthens the RRB integrity functions and improves accountability and control over state funding.

The legislation also provides that Bord na gCon will be statutorily subject to the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies or other such codes or policy documents issued by Government by amending the Greyhound Industry Acts 1958 and 1993.

Key provisions include:

- **Improved Governance**: changes to the HRI board's structure to improve efficiency and accountability. The number of Ministerial appointees increased from 1 to 3;

- **Maintaining ITC Integrity Functions**: the retention by the Racing Regulatory Body (RRB) of responsibility for integrity functions and its licensing role. The issuing of hunter certificates, management of entries and declarations for Point to Point races and the financial receipts associated with those functions remains with the Local Hunt Clubs.

The RRB are required to consult with HRI regarding amendments to the rules of racing and likewise, HRI are required to consult with the RRB in relation to amendments to its Directives.

- **Streamlining and Efficiency:** a single streamlined structure within HRI for the administration and financial management of all other aspects of horseracing which eliminates administrative duplication between HRI and RRB. This includes the processing of income derived from both the registration fees for hunter certificates and the licensing of trainers for participation in Point to Points. These payments were previously processed by the RRB. This has paved the way for increased efficiency in areas such as finance, IT, payroll, pensions and certain administration aspects in relation to Point to Point racing. A data sharing agreement between HRI and RRB is now in place.

  Charges for licenses and registration are subject to the annual approval of HRI. Income streams that previously went to Local Hunt clubs are unaffected.

- **Control and Accountability:** improved Ministerial control, with explicit provisions requiring HRI to furnish information to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when requested in relation to the scope of its activities, including compliance with codes of practice or other government policies. The Minister is now empowered to withhold funding installments from HRI or Bord na gCon if the Minister is dissatisfied with the strategic and other plans submitted to support any funding proposals, or their implementation. Similarly, the RRB in turn is required to provide information to HRI in relation to its activities when requested to do so.

- Empowerment of HRI to make deductions in relation to debts or sanctions imposed by the Racing Regulatory Body from prize money.

**Conclusion**

All sections of the Act are now operational. Appropriate reporting systems between HRI and RRB had to be established before Section 12 became operational on 1 January 2019.

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