

17 September 2015

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **HRNZ TO REVIEW MIKE STRATFORD'S LICENCES**

HRNZ has serious concerns from an animal welfare perspective with licensed person's Mike Stratford attempt to drive with a modified whip on Friday 11 September at the New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club race meeting.

Pursuant to Rule 324, HRNZ is to review Mr Stratford's appropriateness to be licensed.

Rule 324(1) states:

*324 (1) The Board may, in its discretion, at any time cancel, withdraw, suspend, or impose, amend or delete any conditions or restrictions upon any licence for such period during the currency thereof as it thinks fit, giving seven days notice of its intention to do so.*

A meeting has been scheduled for Friday, 25 September to consider this.

HRNZ believes animal welfare considerations are paramount to the sustainability and integrity of the harness racing industry. Activities that compromise the wellbeing of the horse in any way will not be tolerated.

**Edward Rennell**  
**Chief Executive**  
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