



# Is your farrier registered?

Use a Registered Farrier  
for your peace of mind  
and for the welfare of  
your horse or pony



Farriers Registration Council  
[www.farrier-reg.gov.uk](http://www.farrier-reg.gov.uk)



# How can I tell if my farrier is registered?

## Ask to see their Registration Card

Upon payment of the annual Retention Fee each year Registered Farriers are issued with an annual Registration Card and vehicle window sticker. The card includes their name and the year of validity.



## Check 'Find a Farrier'

You can check the registration of any farrier on the Find a Farrier feature of the Council website at [www.farrier-reg.gov.uk](http://www.farrier-reg.gov.uk). This search feature will allow you to search for a Registered Farrier by postcode or location, and refine by surname.

## Contact our offices

If you have any doubts or if you have difficulty in finding a Registered Farrier contact the Farriers Registration Council for assistance on 01733 319911.

## The Farriers (Registration) Act 1975

**The purpose of the Farriers (Registration) Act 1975 is to:** “*prevent and avoid suffering by and cruelty to horses arising from the shoeing of horses by unskilled persons; to promote the proper shoeing of horses; to promote the training of farriers and shoeing smiths; to provide for the establishment of a Farriers Registration Council to register persons engaged in farriery and the shoeing of horses; to prohibit the shoeing of horses by unqualified persons; and for purposes connected therewith.*”

**Farriery is defined in the Act as:** “*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.*”

## What does this mean for me?

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Under the Act only the following may practice farriery:

- Registered Farriers
- Enrolled farrier apprentices
- Veterinary Surgeons or trainees
- Persons giving first aid in an emergency situation

For others to do so is a criminal offence which can result in a fine of up to £1000, legal costs and a criminal record.

Registered Farriers are qualified either by examination, training and/or experience to carry out farriery properly and safely and are required to abide by a code of professional conduct.

Unregistered persons who carry out farriery are breaking the law, and if you use them:

- You will have no comeback in law
- You may invalidate your insurance if they lame or otherwise injure your horse or pony
- You may be aiding and abetting a criminal act

## Illegal farriery activity

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Under Section 16 of the Farriers (Registration) Act 1975 it is an offence for unregistered persons to carry out farriery. Farriery is defined in the Act as “any work in connection with the preparation 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.” To shoe a horse or pony when unregistered, therefore, is a criminal act and any persons aware of this taking place should report the activity to the police in the first instance.

The Farriers Registration Council may investigate allegations of illegal farriery activity where sufficient information is available and may take out prosecutions against unregistered individuals in the interests of equine welfare.

If you have any information regarding any alleged illegal farriery activity you are requested to report it to the Council. It may not be possible to take out a prosecution on your report alone, but your information may help to build a more detailed picture regarding a suspect and assist an investigation.

In order to bring a prosecution it is always necessary to have a witness statement made by either a Registered Farrier, a member of the public or a Council investigator.

## **How to report illegal activity**

If you have any information regarding illegal farriery activity please contact the Farriers Registration Council by any of the following means:

- telephone on 01733 319911
- e-mail to [frc@farrier-reg.gov.uk](mailto:frc@farrier-reg.gov.uk)
- visit the website [www.farrier-reg.gov.uk](http://www.farrier-reg.gov.uk) and complete the illegal farriery report form

All information relating to allegations of illegal farriery is treated as confidential, and personal information will only be divulged to investigators with your agreement.

