

22 April 2020

The Chair and Board of RITA

As New Zealand prepares to enter Alert Level three, the Executive of the Trainers' Association has been in serious discussions regarding the resumption of training and racing.

Due to the uncertainty and lack of information coming from RITA the following questions need to be answered. To be fair and accountable to our owners who race horses at considerable expense, we need to assure them that putting their horses back into work is justified.

New Zealand's trainers and owners are the people that are going to deliver RITA much needed domestic racing product once racing resumes. We need to be assured that RITA is in a position to support our participants going forward. We are aware of many trainers considering alternative careers, moving their operations overseas or being forced into premature retirement. The consequences of this are clearly a loss of horses, massive reductions in staff and racing industry support staff.

The following questions therefore require acceptable responses prior to midday on Monday 27th April 2020:

- Is RITA a solvent organisation that can continue to fund its operating expenses and guarantee distributions to the codes?
- When will RITA be able to give certainty to the codes around their distributions for the coming season?
- What measures have been put in place to reduce costs? Many other organisations have made public announcements around redundancies and wage reductions. We have had no such guidance from RITA on this.
- The RIU is considered a bloated and inefficient organisation. What steps are underway to reduce their cost to the industry?
- Are RITA looking closely at a Joint Venture partner to unlock the value left in the current business?

- What progress is being made with Government around securing the short term future of RITA?
- When is the Racing Reform Bill likely to be enacted?
- When will there be clarity regarding ownership of the TAB?

Your urgent attention to this letter is appreciated. Our members need and deserve clarity around these matters. Significant financial and personal decisions will be made by our members over the coming weeks and months. I think it is only fair that we have the relevant information to base these decisions on.

Yours truly,

Tony Pike
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

cc.

John Thompson, NZ Thoroughbred Breeders' Association

Dave Taylor, NZ Jockeys' Association

Bernard Hickey, NZ Racehorse Owners' Federation