

## PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

### **National Trainers Federation Launches New Campaign to Combat Abusive Communications**

The National Trainers Federation (NTF) can announce the launch of a campaign and reporting process aimed at combatting abusive content sent to trainers. This will see a concerted effort made to support British trainers in tackling harassment through the creation of a central database of evidence.

Abusive communications have become an ever-increasing concern in today's digital age and the NTF recognises the importance of taking a proactive stance against such behaviours. As part of this campaign, which has already been trialled amongst Lambourn trainers, the organisation is rolling out an easy-to-use reporting process. This will be a simple to use hub into which trainers can direct abusive communications received, in the knowledge that they will begin to create a wider base of evidence that we will seek to act upon. Information will continue to be shared with the BHA's RaceWISE service and in serious cases, may result in information being handed to the police. In addition to this, advice and guidance will be provided to trainers as to how to reduce exposure to abusive communications, seeking to draw on the learnings of other sports.

The project team at the NTF will include former police Superintendent, Sean Memory, who brings a wealth of expertise in the management of investigations. It is recognised that identifying the individual behind anonymous messages is very challenging in the digital age. Sean's skills in doing so will be of great value in getting to a stage where the BHA and/or police are able to act.

It is hoped that the Government's Online Safety Bill, which will shortly receive Royal Assent, will also play a role in reducing the abuse faced by participants given the new duties it will place on social media companies to prevent and remove abuse that is posted onto their platforms. Racing has previously highlighted to Government the abuse faced by participants during a consultation process around this new legislation.

Paul Johnson, Chief Executive of the NTF said:

"We are pleased to launch this campaign and reporting process in full, which we believe can make a real difference in combatting abusive communications to



trainers. We are fortunate to have secured the services of Sean Memory, whose knowledge of racing, and experience of dealing with abusive content and its implications will be invaluable. This initiative reinforces the organisation's commitment to ensuring that trainers can operate without harassment or threats of harm.”

For more information about the NTF’s campaign and reporting process, please visit <https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/ntf/pdfs/reportabusivcontent.pdf>

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The National Trainers Federation represents the interests of British licensed racehorse trainers.

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For more information on the National Trainers Federation, please go to [www.racehorsetrainers.org](http://www.racehorsetrainers.org)