

Garda Commissioner:

June 2024

Dear Mr. Harris

I write to you today to share my sadness and shock at the recent documentary shared by RTE '*Horses – Making a Killing*' on the 12th of June 2024.

In this documentary serious animal welfare abuse and cruelty has been exposed. Witnessed in this documentary is the mishandling, beating and in one instance a horse is prodded with a pitchfork to get it to stand. Additionally it is highlighted throughout the documentary that not all footage could be released as it was too distressing, I am therefore led to believe that RTE will have additional footage to support your investigation

I call upon you as Garda Commissioner to take immediate action to address these barbaric practices. At a minimum I call for the following:

- Immediate ceasing of operations at Shannonside Foods Ltd whilst a comprehensive investigation occurs.
- Immediate arrest and pursuing of criminal charges in line with the Animal Welfare Act of 2013.
- I call upon you Garda Commissioner now to take the appropriate action in establishing a dedicated Animal Garda Crime Unit within An Garda Síochána to prevent events similar to this from ever occurring again and to show that animal welfare all over this country is taken seriously for domestic animals and farm animals.

I welcome your response to my email and I expect this matter to be dealt with at pace, particularly ensuring the individuals witnessed committing these heinous acts of cruelty are appropriately dealt with.

Regards