

Banned substances seized after raid on Kildare farm

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The raid took place on the same day a report was released finding Irish racing's anti-doping regulations were sufficient

Animal remedies that are banned for use in racehorses were seized yesterday following a raid on a farm in Kildare.

The raid - led by Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine [DAFM] officials acting on their own investigations and information received - took place at a premises in Monasterevin.

They were supported by Gardaí as well as Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board authorised officers, including head of anti-doping Lynn Hillyer.

A number of individuals were spoken to, among them a British resident, whose vehicle and phone were impounded, along with the banned substances.

Racehorses in training with a number of trainers were at the premises.

"An operation was led by DAFM and the Gardaí with IHRB officers in attendance, which led to a seizure of animal remedies," an IHRB spokesman confirmed today.

"This is an active Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine investigation, so we will be making no further comment at this time."

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine subsequently confirmed it was part of an "ongoing investigation".

"On Tuesday 9th November 2021, authorised officers acting on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine carried out an enforcement operation supported by Gardaí attached to the Kildare-Laois drug unit and officers from the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board," said a DAFM spokesperson.

"This Department-led operation involved searches and seizure of products as part of an ongoing investigation into equine doping. As this is an ongoing investigation, it would not be appropriate to make any further comment at this time."

The raid took place on the same day as [the report of the Oireachtas Agriculture Committee into the IRHB's anti-doping regulations was released, in which it was determined that the regulations did not fall below international standards.](#)

The report did recommend that all favourites and the first five finishers in all races undergo mandatory testing using hair samples.

The committee met originally on the back of allegations by respected trainer-breeder Jim Bolger that there was a considerable doping issue in Irish racing.

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