



STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENT



1. Title: EQUINE REHABILITATIVE PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES

2. **Customer Sponsor:** Headquarters London District.

3. **User(s):**

a. **Primary:**

- (1) The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment (HCMR).
- (2) The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery (KTRHA).

b. **Secondary:**

- (1) The Household Cavalry Training Wing (HCTW).
- (2) The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS).

Background

4. **Purpose:**

a. **HCMR.** HCMR is His Majesty The King's official bodyguard. Its primary duties are to mount the King's Life Guard on Horse Guards Parade, the ceremonial entrance to Buckingham Palace; and to provide a mounted escort to the Sovereign during occasions of state. It includes the Mounted Band of the Household Cavalry.

b. **KTRHA.** KTRHA is His Majesty The King's mounted ceremonial saluting battery. Its primary duty is the firing of royal gun salutes to mark occasions of state including royal births, birthdays and anniversaries; state openings of Parliament; state visits; and state funerals.

c. **HCTW.** HCTW trains horses and personnel for HCMR.

d. **RMAS.** RMAS trains Officers for the Army.

5. **Horses:**

a. **HCMR and HCTW.** HCMR and HCTW are established to hold a combined herd of 276 Military Working Horses (MWH), plus a fluctuating number of remounts. The herd comprises:

- (1) **Troopers and Trumpeters.** The majority of HCMR's MWHs are Troopers and Trumpeters. These are typically Irish Draughts or Sport Horses, selected

and trained to be well mannered and steady, and to carry weight. They have no less than nine inches of bone. Troopers are black and 16.2-17.3 hands high. Trumpeters are light grey or grey and 16.1 to 17 hands high. Horses of both classifications enter service at four to seven years of age, and the oldest currently in service are 26 years old.

(2) **Chargers.** There are 22 officers' chargers. They are good quality Irish Sport Horses, no less than 16.3 hands high, and are selected for their manner and presence. HCMR also maintains a herd of 21 chargers for Headquarters The Household Division.

(3) **Drum Horses.** HCMR's four Drum Horses are Shires or Clydesdales that each carry a pair of solid silver kettledrums and drummer, with a combined weight of approximately 200kg.

b. **KTRHA.** KTRHA is established to hold a herd of 108 fully trained MWHs, plus a fluctuating number of remounts, which are younger horses in various stages of training. The herd comprises:

(1) **Lines Horses.** 96 lines horses draw original First World War 13-pounder guns in teams of three pairs. Each gun weighs approximately 1.5 tonnes, and three Mounted Gunners drive each team, riding postilion on the nearside horses. Lines horses are of traditional Irish hunting stamp, each with no less than nine inches of bone. They enter service at four to seven years of age, are worked hard six days a week, and the oldest currently in service are 17 years old. All are trained to ride and drive. In addition to their ceremonial work, lines horses race, hunt and compete in show jumping, dressage, cross-country, and military skill-at-arms such as tent pegging. Lines horses are further sub-divided as follows:

(a) **Leaders.** Leaders work at the fore of the team, are 15.3 to 16 hands high, and tend to be of a finer galloping stamp.

(b) **Wheelers.** Wheelers work at the rear of the team and slow or stop the gun by breeching. They are 15.1 to 15.3 hands high and tend to be shorter-coupled with strong hindquarters and hocks.

(2) **Chargers.** KTRHA's 12 chargers are similar to the HCMR chargers described above, but with a minimum height of 17 hands. Chargers are only ridden, never driven.

c. **RMAS.** RMAS keeps a small herd of 10 chargers, similar to those previously described, which it uses for basic equitation training, and during the Sovereign's Parade that takes place at the culmination of each commissioning course.

6. **Musculoskeletal injury and disease.**

a. MWHs are well cared for, but musculoskeletal injuries and diseases are an inevitable consequence of the impact, intensity and frequency of the duties and highrisk training required of them, and the duration of service they are generally expected to achieve. KTRHA MWHs are routinely mounted by vaulting, and HCMR MWHs must be capable of being mounted by vaulting. Most are housed in stalls and

the opportunity for turnout is limited. The options of bridle, bit, saddle, saddle pad, girth and harness are limited in the ceremonial context. All that considered, there is a low incidence of soft tissue injury, degenerative joint disease and back pain.

b. **KTRHA.** The guns are drawn in walk, trot, canter and gallop, with tight turns and on surfaces ranging from roads to mud.

c. **HCMR, HCTW and RMAS.** In addition to State Ceremonial and Mounted Duties, the Officers and Soldiers of the Household Cavalry also fulfil a deployable operational armoured reconnaissance role. This dual role inevitably results in a more variable standard of equitation amongst HCMR personnel compared with KTRHA personnel, most of whom spend their entire military career working with horses. HCMR horses withstand significant concussive forces over extended careers on the streets and parade grounds of Central London. The average combined weight of a Mounted Dutyman and state kit is 125kg, and the longest period continually mounted is six hours.

7. **Veterinary Departments.** The HCMR and KTRHA Veterinary Departments promote and protect the health, welfare and operational effectiveness of MWHs through primary, emergency and critical care; nutrition; dentistry; infectious disease prevention; rehabilitation; and the management of referrals. It advises the Chain of Command on matters of MWH selection, husbandry, employment and retirement; and educates and develops personnel. It is supported in its role by a team of military Farriers, Saddlers and Equitation Instructors, and by externally contracted paraprofessionals such as Nutritionists, Dentists and Physiotherapists.

Requirement

8. The provision of equine physical therapy services by one or more Chartered Physiotherapist(s) to users, in close collaboration with the Veterinary Departments to:

- (a) Develop strength and conditioning.
- (b) Assist in the management of chronic pain.
- (c) Promote the recovery of function following injury.
- (d) Prevent deterioration or recurrence of injury.
- (e) Educate service personnel.

Specification

9. All Physiotherapists practicing on MWHs must:

- a. Protect client confidentiality.
- b. Pass Counter Terrorist Check security vetting.
- c. Be accredited by the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy.

- d. Adhere to the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966.
- e. Hold suitable and adequate professional indemnity, employers' and third party liability, and personal accident (including lone working) insurance.
- f. Provide and suitably maintain their own equipment.

10. The Physiotherapist(s) is/are to visit one primary user per week according to greatest need as agreed with respective Veterinary Departments. Weekly visits will generally alternate between HCMR and KTRHA, with each primary user therefore receiving a fortnightly visit. The Physiotherapist(s) is/are to additionally visit secondary users as required. Each visit to a primary user will comprise up to ten cases. Each visit will be to one of the following locations:

- a. **HCMR.** Hyde Park Barracks, Knightsbridge, LONDON SW7 1SE.
- b. **KTRHA:**
 - (1) King George VI Lines, Repository Road, WOOLWICH SE18 4BB.
 - (2) Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, LONDON SW1E 6HQ.
 - (3) The Regent's Park Barracks, Albany Street, LONDON NW1 4AN.
 - (4) Royal Windsor Horse Show, Home Park, WINDSOR, SL4 1QE.
- c. **HCTW.** Combermere Barracks, St Leonard's Road, WINDSOR SL4 3DN.
- d. **RMAS.** Haig Road, CAMBERLEY GU15 4PQ

11. Each case is to comprise:

- a. Assessment of the patient, to include a detailed history of the horse and its condition(s), static examination, palpation, and range of motion and gait analysis as required. Clinical records will be made available. The horse will be lunged and/or ridden on soft and/or hard surfaces if requested.
- b. Proposal of a treatment plan, to be approved by the Veterinary Officer prior to implementation.
- c. Therapies as agreed. The horse will be sedated if requested.
- d. Demonstration of any exercises to be performed between visits.
- e. Verbal communication with Farriers, Saddlers, Equitation Instructors and/or Mounted Gunners/Dutymen as required.
- f. Submission of a written report within two working days, to include findings, therapies, and instructions for ongoing rehabilitation plan.

12. The Ministry of Defence reserves the right to terminate the services of any Physiotherapist in the event that any Veterinary Officer has any concerns regarding the

standard of that individual's professional conduct, the quality of clinical care they administer, the welfare of their patients or any breach of client confidentiality.

Demanding Authority

13. Regimental Veterinary Officer HCMR.