

12th October 2021

Dear Mr Mookhey,

Inquiry into the granting of contract number OoS17/18-021 by the Office of Sport

Thank you for your letter dating 6 October 2021 providing me the opportunity to respond in writing to the comments made about me in submissions received by the committee in this inquiry.

My response to the comments made is as follows:

1. I have bred, showed and attended equestrian competitions for 33 years.
2. We breed and show Arabian Horses and Warmblood dressage horses at SIEC.
3. Our handler hated running on the soft deep surface and twisted his ankle on numerous occasions in the indoor arena at this venue.
4. Our Grand Prix dressage stallion Aber Hallo 29 sustained a suspensory injury on the indoor surface on the arena at a familiarisation day in February 2017. The surface was deep and the footing slid under foot. The surface was completely inappropriate for dressage horses. (see attached photo taken February 2017)
5. Following this, as a concerned and experienced owner and breeder, I asked to meet with Bruce Farrar to discuss the arena surface. At this meeting Bruce said Equestrian NSW had no funds to employ a consultant to make a funding submission. I said that I knew a consultant that could help and offered to pay the consultancy fee if it meant we could have the opportunity for a safer surface.
6. The consultant was a friend of mine and ended up helping Bruce with the submission over the phone at no cost.
7. I have never held myself out as an expert on arenas or surfaces.
8. At no stage did I ever claim that I was a riding consultant and I was not engaged as one. I have not represented Australia as a dressage rider myself, however the rider Brett Parbery I employed at the time has represented Australia and my daughter Katharine was short listed in 2016 for the Rio Olympics on her Grand Prix horse Luxor 118.
9. My letter to Minister Ayres was in support of the funding submission for the same reasons I met with Bruce - the surface at SIEC was of concern and I hoped we could obtain funding to improve horse, rider and handler safety.
10. I believe I was asked to be on the Tender Advisory Panel was because I had got the ball rolling on the funding submission and due to my experience as an owner, breeder and user of SIEC.
11. I signed a Conflict of Interest declaration (please see attached).

12. The Tender Advisory Panel did not make a decision on the awarding of the tender, it's role was to offer advice on the suitability of the surface. At no time did I ever seek to influence the evaluation of the tenders.

I confirm that the committee may publish my response.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information

Yours sincerely,

Julie Farrell