



STATEMENT FROM ROBBIE DOWNEY AND THE PJA FOLLOWING COCAINE “POSITIVE”

- **Robbie Downey vehemently denies taking cocaine**
- **Jockey takes unprecedented step of making public hair sample results**

Following the announcement by France Galop that Robbie Downey has tested positive for cocaine and been suspended for six months, Robbie Downey said:

“I am bitterly disappointed to have been found in breach today and that France Galop has ignored the medical evidence I have presented which shows that I have not taken cocaine. I will definitely be appealing and doing everything I can to clear my name.”

Paul Struthers, Chief Executive of the PJA, said:

“It must be devastating to be facing a six month suspension when you have never taken cocaine and I am extremely concerned that there is a risk of a miscarriage of justice.

“As soon as Robbie was informed his “A” sample had returned a positive result, he immediately paid for a hair sample at an accredited British laboratory in order to prove his innocence. He also paid for a second hair sample at an accredited French laboratory and both of these tests returned negative. These results clearly demonstrate that he hasn’t taken cocaine. We are greatly concerned that these two separate and independent results have been ignored by France Galop.

“It is unclear why France Galop is refusing to apply the same testing thresholds that operate in other testing regimes and why they refuse to disclose the levels in Robbie’s urine. This despite the fact Robbie specifically asked them to do so when reporting the analysis of his ‘B’ sample. We are therefore taking the unprecedented step of making those hair test results public today to demonstrate that Robbie is telling the truth.

“Robbie will be lodging an appeal against the decision and if that appeal fails he will then apply to the BHA, who have been kept apprised of the situation throughout this process, for the suspension not to be reciprocated. The BHA recently announced that they would be bringing in hair sampling as an additional testing matrix and Robbie has two such samples that prove his innocence. In those circumstances it would be a grave injustice were he to be banned for six months for something he so clearly hasn’t done.”

11th October 2019

Notes for Editors:

1. The two hair sample results – one carried out by AlphaBiolabs and another by Toxlab – are attached or can be accessed by clicking [here](#).
2. Robbie presented at both laboratories in person, had his ID verified and this was recorded as a matter of fact in both test results.
3. The suspension is due to be effective from 24th October 2019 and run to 23rd April 2020.