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**DECISION**  
**RACING VICTORIA STEWARDS**  
*and*  
**MONICA CROSTON**

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<u>Date of Hearing</u>	17 July 2019
<u>Panel</u>	Judge John Bowman (Chair) Mr Darren McGee (Member) Dr June Smith (Member)
<u>Appearances</u>	Justin Hooper of Counsel, instructed by Simonette Foletti, appeared on behalf of the Stewards.  Adrian Anderson of Counsel instructed by Joe Naccarata, appeared on behalf of Monica Croston.
<u>Charge 1</u>	AR 175(h)(i) - Administration of a prohibited substance for the purpose of affecting the performance or behaviour of a horse in a race. <b>Withdrawn</b>
<u>Charge 2</u>	AR 175(h)(ii) - [Alternative to Charge 1]  <i>The Principal Racing Authority (or the Stewards exercising powers delegated to them) may penalise:</i>  <i>(h) Any person who administers, or causes to be administered, to a horse any prohibited substance:</i> <i>(ii) which is detected in any sample taken from such horse prior to or following the running of any race.</i>
<u>Summary</u>	The Stewards allege that prior to the race on 29 June 2016, Ms Croston administered, or caused to be administered, to <i>Hezza Tidal Wave</i> a prohibited substance being cobalt at a concentration in excess of 200 micrograms per litre in urine which was detected in a urine sample taken from <i>Hezza Tidal Wave</i> prior to the running of the race.
<u>Charge 3</u>	AR 178 [Alternative to Charges 1 and 2] - Presentation of a horse to race with a prohibited substance. <b>Falls Away</b>

Plea                      Charge 1      Withdrawn  
                                 Charge 2      Guilty  
                                 Charge 3      Falls away

Penalty                      Ms Croston is suspended for a period of four months.

In accordance with AR 177, *Hezza Tidal Wave* is disqualified from Race 5 at Sandown racecourse on 29 June 2016 and the places amended accordingly.

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Grace Gugliandolo  
Registrar  
Racing Appeals and Disciplinary Board