

Summary of Council Meeting – 30 October 2014

The Council met on 30 October 2014 from 10.30am to 4.45pm. There were 9 items tabled on the Agenda and 10 pieces of correspondence were considered.

The Council considered reports from the Legislation and Ethics Committee, the Audit and Finance Committee, the Practice Premises Committee and the Preliminary Investigation Committee.

Legislation and Ethics Committee (LEC)

The LEC met on 2 October 2014 from 2.00pm to 5.00pm. There were 10 items tabled on the Agenda and it considered 7 pieces of correspondence and 4 matters referred to it by Council.

One of the key issues discussed was the Prohibition on Tail Docking and Dew Claw Removal (Dogs) Regulations 2014 (SI 128/2014). It was agreed to prepare a position statement on this matter for review by the Council.

The committee considered the draft SI Identification of Dogs Regulations 2014 and noted that when the legislation is signed into law implanting a microchip in a dog will no longer be an act of veterinary medicine.

Audit and Finance Committee (AFC)

The AFC met on 20 October 2014 from 10.00am to 12.45pm. There were 10 items tabled on the Agenda and it considered 1 piece of correspondence. The AFC also met on 30 October 2014 from 9.00am to 10.15am immediately prior to the Council meeting.

The 9 months 2014 accounts are in line with the budget. The committee proposed, and the Council agreed, to keep the licence to practise fee for the forthcoming year at the 2014 levels of €390 for veterinary practitioners and €185 for veterinary nurses.

Practice Premises Committee (PPC)

The PPC met on 23 October 2014 from 10.30am to 2.45pm. There were 19 items tabled on the Agenda and it considered 2 pieces of correspondence and 2 matters referred to it by Council.

The committee proposed, and the Council agreed, to issue certificates of suitability to 2 newly registered premises and agreed to renew certificates of suitability for 5 premises. The satisfactory completion of 21 assessments in respect of veterinary premises registered under the Premises Accreditation Scheme was noted.

The Council agreed to the proposal to appoint Ray Finn to the PPC.

Disciplinary Matters

One application for an Inquiry involving two practitioners was considered.

One application under section 84 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005 was considered. This section of the Act allows the Council to decide to remove from the Register the name of a registered person where he or she is convicted in the State of an offence triable on

indictment, or is convicted outside the State of an offence consisting of acts or omissions which would constitute an offence triable on indictment if done or made in the State.

Changes to the Registers

The Council confirmed the changes to both Registers which had taken place since the last meeting.

Register of Veterinary Practitioners - It was reported that there are 3 new entries to the Register under section 42 of the Act, 9 new entries under section 43 of the Act, 1 new entry under section 44 of the Act and 4 name restored to the Register under section 49(2) of the Act. It was agreed to remove from the Register the names of the 5 veterinary practitioners who had made application to the Council to remove their name from the Register under section 49 of the Act.

Register of Veterinary Nurses – It was reported that there are 12 new entries to the Register under section 95 of the Act and 1 name restored to the Register under section 49(2) of the Act. It was agreed to remove from the Register the names of the 1 veterinary nurse who had made application to the Council to remove her name from the Register under section 49 of the Act.

It was reported that the death of 4 veterinary practitioners had occurred since the last Council meeting – Ms Catherine Harrison (56/74), Mr Timothy Clifford (10/80), Mr John Carroll (19/51) and Mr James Phelan (03/53). A minutes silence was observed in their honour.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday, 12 December 2014.