

## **Summary of Council Meeting - 7 February 2013**

The Council met on 7 February 2013. Reports from the following committees were considered:

### **Practice Premises Committee (PPC)**

The PPC had met on 17 January 2013 and discussed the recruitment of a new panel of premises assessors; considered a report on the status of renewals of Certificates of Suitability (COS) and applications for new certificates. Reports on assessments of a number of premises which had been visited were also considered.

### **Legislation and Ethics Committee (LEC)**

The LEC had met on 17 January 2013, the key issues discussed at that meeting were the possible implementation of the requirement for registered persons to have indemnity insurance; the development of CVE modules on ethics and the planning of a major review of the two Codes of Professional Conduct.

### **Veterinary Nursing Committee (VNC)**

The VNC had met on 23 January 2013 and confirmed the successful revalidation of the veterinary nursing course provided by St John's Central College, Cork. The proposal to affiliate with ACOVENE (Accreditation Committee for Veterinary Nurse Education) was discussed and agreed and a Memorandum of Understanding would be agreed and signed by both sides.

### **Disciplinary Committees**

A report on the complaints/disciplinary activity from 19 July 2012 to 31 December 2012 was presented. In the report it was confirmed that 23 queries had been received mostly from members of the public requesting information on the Council's procedures for making a complaint against a registered person. In the same period 13 applications for inquiries had been received. Two applications will proceed to be heard before the Fitness to Practise Committee; three applications are ongoing and the balance will not be proceeding to inquiry. All decisions not to proceed to inquiry are reviewed by the Council before the final decision is made.

The Council at a special meeting held on 30 January 2013 imposed the sanction of 'warning' on two veterinary practitioners both had been found by the Fitness to Practise Committee guilty of professional misconduct at a hearing held on 28 September 2012. The case centred on the fact that one veterinary practitioner signed into a CVE event using the other's name and registration number in order to secure credits for this veterinary practitioner despite not having attended the event. The Council when deciding on sanction took a serious view of the misuse of the professional's signature in this context.

### **Changes to the Registers**

The Council noted the changes to both registers which had taken place since the last meeting. The deaths of four veterinary practitioners, D Donovan 18/51; MJ Cox 10/51; B

McAuley 9/66 and JV Lynam 37/64, were noted and a minute's silence observed in their memory. It was reported that 59 veterinary practitioners had removed their names from the register; 16 had been erased for non-compliance with the CVE requirement; 8 names had been restored to the register and there were 10 new entries. In respect of the veterinary nurses' register 3 had been erased for non-compliance with CVE; 8 had removed their names from the register; 1 restored her name to the register and there were 23 new entries.

The erasures were notified to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

#### Meeting with Animal Health Ireland

A report on a meeting between Animal Health Ireland and the Council which had taken place on 13 December 2012 was considered. The key topics covered at this meeting were an update on AHI programmes/projects; initiatives regarding the responsible use of medicines; veterinary input into programmes provided to farmers and the recognition and discussion on how to recognise and promote registered persons who have successfully completed AHI training modules.

A draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the Irish Veterinary Benevolent Fund (IVBF) concerning the funding of the Veterinary Assistance Programme by the Council was agreed. The IVBF had provided the Council with an overview of the programmes in 2012 showing the uptake and type of support accessed by users.

The Council is scheduled to meet again on 25 April 2013.