

Summary of Council Meeting - 18 July 2013

The Council met on 18 July 2013. Reports from the following committees were considered:

Veterinary Education and Training Committee (VETC)

The VETC had met on 3 July 2013, this meeting had discussed a number of registration requested per sections 44 and 95 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005 and the Amendment Act 2012. CVE waivers were also confirmed for a small number of registrants who had made a compelling case for a waiver for the current credit year. Waivers are considered where serious prolonged illness backed up by medical certification which has prevented the person from practising for some time. Mr Turlough McNally (46/98) was confirmed as eligible to have his name entered into the Specialist Register.

Finance Committee (FC)

The FC had met on 11 July 2013. The quarterly and half yearly accounts were reviewed and accepted. Expenditure to date is within budget.

Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC)

The Registrar reports every six months on the number of queries received concerning complaints against registered persons and on the number of applications received for fitness to practise inquiries. Twenty eight queries had been received in the first six months of the year, however only two of these queries resulted in applications for an inquiry. Thirteen applications for fitness to practise inquiries had been received, eight of these are ongoing. Two of the remaining applications are proceeding to inquiry.

Changes to the Registers

The Council confirmed the changes to both registers which had taken place since the last meeting. The death of Mr Patrick Charles Hernon 17/53 was noted and a minute's silence held in his memory. It was reported that 2 veterinary practitioners had removed their names from the register; 5 names had been restored to the register and there were 56 new entries, all but 10 of whom had graduated from UCD on 17 June 2013. In respect of the veterinary nurses' register 1 had removed her name from the register and there were 21 new entries, all but 4 of whom had graduated from UCD on 17 June 2013.

Education Trust Funding of Research

The Council's Education Trust Fund is providing funding to two projects – a Newman Scholarship awarded to Dr Alison Hanlon for her proposal on 'Exploring Current and Future Ethical Issues for the Veterinary Profession in Ireland' and PhD funding for research into 'Antimicrobial resistance, prescribing practice and possible association with animal welfare in the Irish pig industry.' This research will be supervised by Dr Nola Leonard.

Council Elections

The timetable to elect five veterinary practitioners and one veterinary nurse to the Council was agreed as were the rules for the election. Mr John O'Rourke was appointed returning officer. The Council discussed the time commitment and associated cost involved in Council

membership as well as the onus of responsibility inherent in serving on a public body. The Veterinary Practice Acts do not permit other than travel and subsistence payments to be made to members for attending any meetings associated with the Council. It was agreed that election candidates would be invited to submit a short biography and photo, these would be put on the Council's website for registrants to access.

Animal Welfare Day One Competencies

The Council endorsed the Day One Animal Welfare Competencies which have been proposed by the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), it is proposed that all veterinary faculties would adopt these.

The Council is scheduled to meet again on 19 September 2013.