

Summary of Council Meeting - 19 September 2013

The Council met on 19 September 2013. Reports from the following committees were considered:

Veterinary Education and Training Committee (VETC)

The VETC had met on 4 September 2013, at this meeting a number of registration requests per sections 44 and 95 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005 and the Amendment Act 2012 were considered. 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. B Douw was confirmed as one of the Council's nominees to observe the AVMA accreditation visit to UCD scheduled to take place in January 2014.

Veterinary Nursing Committee (VNC)

The VNC had met on 4 September 2013. An MOU has been signed between the Council and ACOVENE (Accreditation Committee for Veterinary Nurse Education), which is an Europe wide body which accredits veterinary nursing courses. This MOU means that ACOVENE accepts the veterinary nursing courses accredited by the Veterinary Council automatically. A nominee of ACOVENE will attend as a panel member during all future Council visitations.

Legislation and Ethics Committee (LEC)

The LEC had met on 29 August 2013. The key topic on the agenda was the preparation of a response to the Department in relation to Statutory Instruments which had been drafted in respect of sections 16 and 17 of the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013.

Practice Premises Committee (PPC)

The PPC had met on 12 September 2013. Twenty four reports from the Council's premises assessors were considered in relation to revisits to premises that have renewed their Certificate of Suitability (COS). In addition, six reports in respect of new applications for a COS were also considered and recommendations made to Council in relation to each premises. The Committee had also discussed the PAS standards relating to the provision of 24 hour cover in RVHs and the keeping of patient records. The Committee discussed the necessity to audit the PAS process and how this might be achieved.

Changes to the Registers

The Council confirmed the changes to both registers which had taken place since the last meeting. The deaths of Mr Gerald Maxwell Ryan 03/50; Mr Paul Callaghan Kennedy 31/90; Patrick Laurence Greene 37/62 and Charles Tempest McCrea 01/80 were noted and a minute's silence held in their memory. It was reported that 4 veterinary practitioners had removed their names from the register; 12 names had been restored to the register and there were 29 new entries. In respect of the veterinary nurses' register 2 had removed their names from the register and there were 15 new entries.

Strategic Plan and Organisation Review

The Council received confirmation from the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine that the Council's strategic plan was satisfactory and in accordance with the Council's obligations under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. The Council also accepted a report which had been prepared on the organisation of the head office administrative functions at 53 Lansdowne Road. The necessity to employ additional resources to support the work of the Registrar and to assist with the implementation of the strategic plan were identified.

Investigation Officers' Reports

The Council's authorised officers submit reports on their investigations to the Council periodically. Two such reports were considered by Council and actions in respect of the findings identified in each report were agreed.

Communications Report

Carr Communications are contracted to support the communications needs of the Council. Carr Communications had provided a plan to address this obligation which was discussed and accepted at the meeting.

The Council is scheduled to meet again on 7 November 2013.