

Code of Conduct for Council Members of the Veterinary Council of Ireland

Approved by the Veterinary Council of Ireland at its meeting held on 16th July 2009 and amended by resolution of Council 9 September 2010.

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Introduction

The Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies requires all state bodies to put in place a stated code of business conduct for both Board/Council (Council) members and employees. This document outlines the Code of Conduct expected of me as a Council member of the Veterinary Council of Ireland.

This document also applies to members of committees of Council who are not member of Council and to all advisers of Council as resolved on 9 September 2010 by the Council. Members of committees of Council and advisers, as mentioned in the previous sentence, should read the document substituting the words 'Council member' for committee member or advisor.

Intent and Scope

This code outlines my responsibilities as a Council member to protect the reputation and assets of the Veterinary Council of Ireland. The Code of Conduct applies when I act in my capacity as a Council Member of the Veterinary Council of Ireland. This includes any time I attend Council meetings, Council committee meetings, Inquiries and any time I represent the Council in my capacity as a Council member of the Veterinary Council of Ireland.

Objective of the Code

The objectives of this code are to

- Establish an agreed set of ethical principles;
- Prevent the development or acceptance of unethical practices;
- Promote and maintain confidence and trust in the Veterinary Council of Ireland.

General Principles

The fundamental principles expected of me as a Council member of the Veterinary Council of Ireland together with my responsibilities under each principle are set out as follows:

- I will disclose in writing (where possible) any conflict of interest, or potential conflict, with the business of the Veterinary Council of Ireland to the President of the Council (ref section 26 VPA).
- I will respect the confidentiality of sensitive information held by the Veterinary Council of Ireland or discussed at Council meetings, at committee meetings or at Inquiries. This would include personal information, information received for Council and committee meetings and information provided in confidence and any other information sensitive to the reputation of the Veterinary Council of Ireland (ref section 25 VPA).
- I am committed to act both ethically and honestly in all dealings in my role as a Council member of the Veterinary Council of Ireland.
- I will ensure public and community concerns are fully considered.
- I will avoid giving or receiving corporate gifts, hospitality, preferential treatment or benefits which might affect or appear to affect the ability of the donor or recipient to make independent judgement on transactions.
- I will ensure that the Veterinary Council of Ireland accounts and reports are accurately prepared and are not misleading or designed to be misleading.
- I will not use the Veterinary Council of Ireland resources for personal gain or for the benefit of persons/organisations unconnected with the Council or its activities.

Loyalty

- I acknowledge my responsibility to be loyal to the Veterinary Council of Ireland and be fully committed to its activities and decisions.

Fairness

- I am committed to dealing fairly with all issues considered by the Council and/or its committees/sub-committees.
- I am committed to observing appropriate prior consultation procedures with third parties where it is proposed to release sensitive information in the public interest.

Legal Obligations

- I will ensure that all regulatory and statutory obligations imposed on the Veterinary Council of Ireland by the Veterinary Practice Act 2005 and other legislation are fulfilled.
- I will ensure that relevant statutory provisions (e.g. data protection legislation, freedom of information etc) are complied with.
- I will make reasonable endeavours to attend all Council, relevant committee meetings and Inquiries (if applicable).
- I will ensure that I am compliant with the requirements of Ethics In Public Office legislation.

General Statement

I acknowledge that it is not feasible to have a code of practice that will specifically provide for all situations which may arise. As a Council member of the Veterinary Council of Ireland I will bear in mind that it is primarily my responsibility to ensure that all of my activities, whether covered in this document or not, are governed by the ethical and other considerations implicit in it.

I have read this document and I agree to be bound by the principles set out above.

Name (Block Capitals):

Signed:

Date: