

Summary of Council Meeting

The Council met on 14 December 2017 from 10.00am to 4.30pm. There were 11 items on the agenda and there were 2 items of correspondence.

The Council considered reports from the Veterinary Nursing Committee, the Veterinary Education and Training Committee, the Legislation and Ethics Committee, the Audit and Finance Committee, the Practice Premises Committee and the Preliminary Investigations Committee.

Veterinary Nursing Committee (VNC)

The VNC reviewed some matters arising from the previous meeting in August which included VN registrant statistics.

The committee reviewed the benchmarks & competencies comparing the VCI with ACOVENE & RCVS equivalents and agreed to propose draft document to the VETC.

The committee noted receipt of MCQ bank for the VN Registration examination from AIT & UCD and agreed to remind other VNCPs of the request.

Veterinary Education and Training

The VETC met on 15 November 2017 from 11.00am to 1.00pm. There were 11 items tabled on the agenda and there were two items of correspondence.

The committee reviewed the updated VN benchmarks and competencies drafted by the VNC. The committee made some comments to be included in the revised competencies.

The Committee considered 2 Specialist Register Applications and 1 CVE Waiver Application.

Legislation and Ethics Committee (LEC)

The LEC met on 23 November 2017 from 2.00pm to 4.30pm. There were 8 items on the agenda and there were 3 items of correspondence.

The committee, over the course of a number of meetings, reviewed ownership of veterinary practices, following queries received from stakeholders. The Committee agreed to provide clarification to the public and the profession with the following statement, 'there is no prohibition on a non-registered person, non-registered persons or a body corporate owning a veterinary business, including a veterinary practice, providing the practice of veterinary medicine, as defined by section 53 of the Act is carried out at all times by registered persons. The certificate of suitability can only be held in the name of a registered person'. This statement will replace the sections in the Code of Professional Conduct on ownership of a veterinary practices

A number of ongoing matters were considered, including AMR Awareness and the definition of an animal under a veterinary practitioner's care.

Audit and Finance Committee (AFC)

The AFC met on 4 December 2017 from 10.00am to 1.00pm. There were 11 items listed on the agenda.

The committee concluded its audit plan for 2017, which continues to be financial and procedural in its focus to assure governance compliance, by reviewing a selection of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and supporting documentation relating to these SOPs.

Having concluded its research into investment options the Committee proposed, and the Council agreed, to invest with Bank of Ireland Private Banking.

The AFC proposed, and the Council agreed, with the budget figures presented for 2018.

Practice Premises Committee (PPC)

The PPC met on 30 November 2017 from 10.00am to 1.30pm. There were 11 items listed on the agenda and there were 9 items of correspondence.

The PPC agreed to grant certificates of suitability to six new premises and to renew certificates of suitability in respect of 150 premises.

Disciplinary Matters

The Council considered five applications for an Inquiry involving five veterinary practitioners and two veterinary nurses.

Reports of Authorised Officers

The Council considered three reports from its authorised officers in respect of alleged breaches of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005, as amended by registered persons and a non-registered persons.

Changes to the Registers

The Council confirmed the changes to both Registers which had taken place since the last meeting. It was reported that there are 9 new entries, 2 names restored to the Register of Veterinary Practitioners. It was agreed to remove from the Register the names of the 3 veterinary practitioners who had made application to do so.

It was reported that there are 31 new entries to the Register of Veterinary Nurses. It was agreed to remove from the Register the names of the 1 veterinary nurses who had made application to do so.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 11 January 2018 @10.00am.