

Summary of Council Meeting

The Council met on 6 April 2017 from 10.30am to 4.30pm. There were 16 items on the agenda.

The Council considered reports from the Audit and Finance Committee, the Practice Premises Committee, the Legislation and Ethics Committee and the Preliminary Investigation Committee.

Audit and Finance Committee (AFC)

The AFC met on 6 March 2017 from 10.30am to 12.30pm. There were 9 items tabled on the agenda and there were no items of correspondence.

The audited accounts for 2016 were reviewed, agreed and subsequently signed at the Council meeting. The AFC agreed its Internal Audit Programme for 2017.

Practice Premises Committee (PPC)

The PPC met on 16 March 2017 from 10.30am to 1.30pm. There were 12 items listed on the agenda.

The PPC agreed to grant certificates of suitability to eight new premises and to revoke the certificate of suitability for three premises. The Council agreed a policy of (i) including in each letter of revocation to the certificate of suitability holder a reminder that he or she remains responsible for all animal remedies ordered and supplied to the premises; and (ii) providing the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, after each Council meeting, a list of premises that have had a certificate of suitability revoked.

The PPC also agreed to remind certificate of suitability holders that all practices must have a vehicle to enable them perform emergency calls and cannot have a blanket policy on refusing to do home visits.

Legislation and Ethics Committee (LEC)

The LEC met on 16 March 2017 from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. There were 9 items tabled on the agenda and there was one item of correspondence.

The final text to the Professional Indemnity Insurance Regulations under section 59A of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005, as amended was agreed. The Regulations will be sent to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine for his consent.

The LEC considered corporate ownership of veterinary practices and agreed to remove from the Code of Professional Conduct the sections on 'lay ownership and control of veterinary practices', 'veterinary practice in commercial premises' and 'change of ownership on death'.

The LEC also considered a Report from the Fitness to Practise Working Group on proposed amendments to Part 7 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005, as amended.

Other matters discussed included AMR Awareness, S.I. No. 561 of 2016 Prohibition on Tail Docking (Dogs) Regulations 2014 (Amendment) Regulations 2016, the use of electro-ejaculation devices by lay people and draft Regulations on procedures that may be carried out by non-registered persons.

Disciplinary Matters

The Council considered four applications for an Inquiry involving four veterinary practitioners.

Report of Authorised Officers

The Council considered a report from its authorised officers in respect of an alleged breach of the Veterinary Practice Act by a registered person. The Council directed further investigations into the matter.

Premises Accreditation Scheme (PAS)

The Council has spent a number of months reviewing the PAS Standards to ensure that they fulfil the required function for patients, the public and the veterinary professions, as well from a regulatory perspective. A consultation on the revised PAS Standards will take place and will be communicated to stakeholders via email and the website.

Veterinary Council Election

The term of office of six elected members of Council ends on 31 December 2017. An election will be held to elect five registered veterinary practitioners and one registered veterinary nurse to be chosen for appointment to the Council under Section 16 (1) (h) and (i) of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005, as amended. The Council agreed to appoint John O'Rourke as returning officer and Kevin Twomey as substitute returning officer. The election process commences with the posting of nomination papers on 8 September 2017.

BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition

The Council's prize was won by Cathal Mariga and George Hennessy from Coláiste Choilm, Co. Offaly for their project entitled "Foal sickness, containment and prevention".

Changes to the Registers

The Council confirmed the changes to both Registers which had taken place since the last meeting.

Register of Veterinary Practitioners - It was reported that there are 28 new entries to the Register and 7 names restored to the Register under section 49 (2) of the Act. It was agreed to remove from the Register the names of the 18 veterinary practitioners who had made application to do so under section 49 of the Act.

Register of Veterinary Nurses – It was reported that there are 6 new entries to the Register under section 95 of the Act and 6 names restored to the Register under section 49 (2) of the Act. It was agreed to remove from the Register the names of the 15 veterinary nurses who had made application to do so under section 49 of the Act.

It was reported that there had been two deaths since the last meeting: Liam Joseph Brennan (07/62) and Patrick Cyril O'Driscoll (48/83). A minute's silence was observed in their honour.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, 19 June 2017 @10.00am. The UCD Graduation Ceremony will be held in the afternoon.