

Summary of Council Meeting - 17 June 2013

The Council met on 17 June 2013. Reports from the following committees were considered:

Legislation and Ethics Committee (LEC)

The LEC Committee had met on 9 May 2013, this meeting had incorporated a workshop with stakeholders to discuss a review of the Council's two codes of professional conduct. This workshop had included representatives of Veterinary Ireland, the Veterinary Officers Association and the Irish Veterinary Nurses Association and was facilitated by an outside person. The report from the workshop will be assessed by the committee at its next meeting.

Conjoint Committee/FVE General Assembly

The Conjoint Committee which includes representatives from Veterinary Ireland and the Veterinary Officers Association had met on 23 May 2013 to review the agenda for the Federation of Veterinarians in Europe (FVE) General Assembly meeting scheduled to take place on 7 and 8 June 2013. Each of the FVE sections, which meet the previous day, is attended by one member of the Irish delegation. Key issues which will be debated at General Assembly will be the revision of the hygiene package, AMR, medicines directive, Bee and Fish Health and Welfare as well as the VetCEE project and the revision of the qualifications directive.

A short post meeting report was provided to the Council.

Practice Premises Committee (PPC)

The PPC had met on 30 May 2013. The 7 new premises assessors had completed a training course on 13 May 2013 and would be carrying out assessment visits over the coming months.

Changes to the Registers

The Council confirmed the changes to both registers which had taken place since the last meeting. It was reported that 13 veterinary practitioners had removed their names from the register; 13 names had been erased for non payment of the licence to practise fee; 2 names had been restored to the register and there were 6 new entries. In respect of the veterinary nurses' register 5 had removed their names from the register; 2 had restored their names to the register and there were 4 new entries.

Draft Strategic Plan 2012-2015

Feedback from Veterinary Ireland on the Council's draft strategic plan was discussed. It was noted that no feedback had been received back from other stakeholders or members of the professions. The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine will be provided with a copy of the draft plan for comment before it will be published and implemented by the Council.

Council Elections

The Council considered a proposal to move to on-line voting for the forthcoming election to elect 5 veterinary practitioners and 1 veterinary nurse to serve on the Council for four years. It was decided that the current paper based voting system would be retained for this election but that moving to on-line voting would be considered for the elections in two years time.

Veterinary Assistance Programme

A memorandum of understanding has been agreed between the Veterinary Benevolent Fund and the Council in relation to the funding of the Veterinary Assistance Programme.

Teagasc

The Council has been engaging with Teagasc officials with a view to encouraging more input by veterinary practitioners into the education and training programmes provided by Teagasc to the farming community. Progress has been made and a plan has been put in place to ensure that this objective is reached.

The Council is scheduled to meet again on 18 July 2013.