

## **Summary of Council Meeting – 11 September 2014**

The Council met on 11 September 2014 from 10.30am to 4.00pm. There were 14 items tabled on the Agenda and 10 pieces of correspondence were considered.

The Council considered Reports from the Veterinary Nursing Committee and the Veterinary Education and Training Committee.

### **Veterinary Nursing Committee VNC**

The VNC met on 3 September 2014. The decision to appoint Gillian Montague from Letterkenny IT and Gillian Coughlan from Athlone IT for co-option to the VNC was endorsed.

### **Veterinary Education and Training Committee VETC**

The VETC met on 3 September 2014. The decision to enter L Cuddy (56/08), Small Animal Surgery Specialist, E Smiet (27/13), Equine Internal Medicine Specialist, J Morgado (42/14), Laboratory Animal Medicine Specialist and J Cassidy (10/86), Veterinary Pathology Specialist into the Register of Specialists was endorsed.

The “Official Guidelines for new or returning graduates and their employers” were endorsed. It was agreed that all registrants would receive a copy of the Guidelines at the time of registration. It was also agreed that the Guidelines would be provided to Veterinary Ireland and highlighted in the autumn newsletter.

### **Meeting with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine**

The officers of the Veterinary Council met officials in DAFM and delivered a presentation outlining its concerns with respect to the draft Veterinary Practice Act 2005 (Procedures carried out by Animal Health Professionals) Regulations 2014. The contents of the presentation were endorsed.

### **Protected Disclosures Act 2014**

The new Act represents a new standard of international best practice for whistle-blowers in Ireland. Under section 72 of SI 339 of 2014, disclosures can be made to the Registrar of the Veterinary Council on all matters relating to regulation and management by the Council of the practice of veterinary medicine and nursing. All public sector bodies must now put in place whistleblowing policies which meet the requirements of the Act.

### **Changes to the Registers**

The Council confirmed the changes to both registers which had taken place since the last meeting. It was reported that one registrant had died since the last meeting – Mr Cyril O’Sullivan 47/72.

### **Draft dates for Council Meetings 2015**

The dates that were agreed for 2015 are 5 February, 16 April, June (will depend on the UCD Graduation date), 16 July, 17 September, 5 November and 5 December.

The next Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 30 October 2014.