

Summary of Council Meeting - 3 April 2014

The Council met on 3 April 2014.

Reports from the following committees were considered:

Veterinary Nursing Committee VNC

The VNC met on 19 March 2014. The committee is chaired by S Walton RVN and deals with all issues relating to the regulation of veterinary nurses. Nominations from the IVNA and the course providers for persons to join the committee are being sought. Dr Marijke Beltman will join the committee. The committee dealt with a number of queries relating to the procedures which a veterinary nurse can perform. The relationship with ACOVENE has been cemented and accredited course providers can publicise the fact that their course is ACOVENE accredited. The committee will start work on a 5 year strategic plan which will incorporate the establishment of the Veterinary Nursing Board of Ireland.

Veterinary Education and Training Committee VETC

The VETC met on 19 March 2014. The visitation to UCD to re-accredit the veterinary nursing degree will take place in the autumn and the visitation panel is being formed. The panel will include an ACOVENE representative in line with the agreement reached with that body. Part 1 of the Council's registration examination will take place on 28 March 2014 in UCD, two candidates will sit the examination.

CVE non compliance statistics were reviewed. Five veterinary practitioners and three veterinary nurses were non-complaint with their CVE obligations and will be erased from the respective Registers. Fifteen specialist register applications were considered and agreed.

Practice Premises Committee PPC

The PPC met on 20 March 2014. The committee is chaired by P Ó Scanaill and will be co-opting new members in the very near future to ensure the widest representation possible of practice categories at the table. The committee discussed the mobile units attached to some veterinary practices and decided that these units could only be used to visit a client at their premises or to collect an animal for transport to a clinic or hospital. No acts of veterinary medicine can be performed in the mobile unit.

Thirty five premises had successfully completed their assessment and two renewals of COS were confirmed. Four new COS applications were accepted and two practices had voluntarily revoked their COS.

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 D Larkin 103/97. 54 veterinary practitioners had removed their name from the register, 2 had restored their name and there were 10 new entries. In respect of the veterinary nurses' register there were 2 new entries and 21 nurses had removed their name.

Disciplinary Matters

Reports on nine cases involving nine veterinary practitioners were reviewed. A decision by the Preliminary Investigation Committee to hold an inquiry into the fitness to practise of one veterinary practitioner was notified to the Council.

Reports from Authorised Officers

The Council considered three reports prepared by its authorised officers concerning potential violations of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005. Reports of this nature are the preliminary stage in deciding whether to pursue a prosecution through the courts.

Farm Safety Partnership Advisory Committee FSPAC

R Finn has been appointed to represent the Council on the FSPAC in place of S Ó Laoide.

The next Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 15 May 2014.