

Summary of Council Meeting

The Council met on 3 November 2017 from 12.45pm to 5.30pm at Glenlo Abbey Hotel, Kentfield, Bushy Park, Co. Galway. There were 16 items on the agenda and there were 2 items of correspondence.

Council Election

The result of the Council Election was noted. The following four veterinary practitioners have been elected to the Council for a term of office that will expire on 31 December 2021:

1. Rachel Elizabeth Browne (22/95)
2. William John Cashman (14/78)
3. Kevin Anthony McConnell (39/91)
4. Edward Joseph Moffitt (41/87)
5. Eoin Ryan (77/01)

There was only one nomination for the veterinary nurse vacancy and the nominee, Ms Rachel Carberry (10143/10) was duly elected unopposed for a term of office that will expire on 31 December 2021.

The names of the five veterinary practitioners and one veterinary nurse have been forwarded to the Minister for appointment.

Appointment of Deputy Chair to the Fitness to Practise Committee

The Council appointed David Holland SC as Deputy Chair of the Fitness to Practise Committee.

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

Legislation and Ethics Committee (LEC)

The LEC met on 28 September 2017 from 2.00pm to 4.30pm. There were 10 items on the agenda and there were six items of correspondence.

A number of queries regarding the Professional Indemnity Insurance Regulations were considered. It will be mandatory from 1 January 2018 for all registered persons to have professional indemnity insurance, either personally or through their employer and each registered person will be required to confirm on their Annual Renewal Form 2019 that they are covered by a policy.

The LEC noted S.I. 304 of 2017 Prohibition on Tail Docking and Dew Claw Removal (Dogs) Regulations 2014 (Amendment) Regulations 2017 which requires tail docking and dew claw removal of dogs to be carried out by a veterinary practitioner. It was agreed to update registrants on the new legislation via the newsletter.

The LEC considered three publications by Manuel Magalhaes Sant'Ana, the Newman Scholar, relating to a workshop of veterinary ethics and agreed to take his findings into account in the review of the Code of Professional Conduct.

The LEC also considered the concept of clinical governance and agreed to include the following statement in the Code of Professional Conduct, 'veterinary practitioners and veterinary nurses must ensure that clinical governance forms part of their professional activities, including monitoring and reviewing clinical outcomes with the aim of improving the quality of the veterinary care they provide'.

A number of ongoing matters were considered, including AMR Awareness and ownership of veterinary practices.

Audit and Finance Committee (AFC)

The AFC met on 9 October 2017 from 10.00am to 1.00pm. There were 12 items listed on the agenda.

The three months accounts, July to September 2017, together with the quarterly figures and the budgetary comparisons were reviewed. The Council achieved 100% compliance with its prompt payments obligations in the third quarter of the year.

The AFC proposed that the Licence to practise fee for 2018 should be restored to the 2013 level i.e. - €450 in respect of a veterinary practitioner's Licence to practise fee and €215 in respect of a veterinary nurse's Licence to practise fee.

Practice Premises Committee (PPC)

The PPC met on 25 October 2017 from 10.00am to 1.30pm. There were 11 items listed on the agenda.

The PPC agreed to grant certificates of suitability to three new premises and to revoke the certificate of suitability for one premises.

The PPC worked on a draft derogation from the Registered Mobile Veterinary Unit standard, under the Premises Accreditation Scheme (PAS), for submission to full Council relating to the existing charity units of the DSPCA and the Irish Blue Cross.

The PPC also discussed other aspects of the new PAS standards and regulations such as assessor training, electronic COS applications and assessment and promotion of the PAS which are works in progress.

Disciplinary Matters

The Council considered seven applications for an Inquiry involving six veterinary practitioners and one veterinary nurse.

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 and 4 names restored to the Register of Veterinary Practitioners and 37 new entries to the Register of Veterinary Nurses.

It was reported that there had been two deaths since the last meeting: Mr James Francis MacNamee (35/78) and Timothy Michael Deady (18/74). A minute's silence was observed in their honour.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 14 December 2017 @10.00am.