

Meeting	CMA Working Group
Date	2 July 2024
Title	Proposed terms of reference
Classification	Unclassified
Summary	This paper includes the draft terms of reference that were agreed by the Finance and Resources Committee (FRC) as part of setting up the group, on 14 May 2024. The WG is invited to comment on the draft ToR and make recommendations for any appropriate change before reaching agreement. Any substantial change would need to be referred back to FRC.
Decisions required	Is the WG content with the draft ToR?
Attachments	None
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Proposed terms of reference (taken from paper to FRC on 14 May 2024)

1. The purpose of the proposed group will be to suggest and co-ordinate activities in response to the initial findings and future outputs from the CMA. It will likely delegate delivery to other groups – such as relevant committees or staff teams – but will oversee completion, co-ordination and communication. It will also be briefed on the information requests coming from the CMA.
2. In summary it is proposed that the WG will:
 - a. Review the consultation document from the CMA published March 2024 and suggest any additional activities required to provide remedies to the issues raised while the CMA progresses with its investigation, on the basis that it is best to address issues as soon as possible for the benefit of the public and animal health and welfare.
 - b. Oversee progress on the areas already identified for action, ie:
 - i. Production of online advice for animal owners in terms of their interactions with veterinary professionals – delegated to the Public Advisory Group
 - ii. Streamlining guidance for the professions around consumer issues so that it is clearer and easier to follow – delegated to the Standards Committee
 - iii. Development of proposals for a mandatory practice regulation regime – delegated to the Mandatory Practice Standards Working Group
 - iv. Continued push for new legislation – delegated to staff and Officers
 - v. Consideration of addition of new standards within the Practice Standards Scheme – to be delegated to the Practice Standards Group although focus yet to be given to what might be appropriate
 - vi. Development of clear area on website with all information about the CMA review and the College's response – delegated to staff
 - vii. Development of simple set of messages for staff and Council members, particularly front-facing, such as Registration, Standards and Advice and Practice Standards Assessors, on the College's role in relation to the areas covered by the CMA's investigation, and our response to that
 - c. Have an overview of the information requested by the CMA during the process – delivery of which is delegated to staff.
3. While much of this work could be done by staff or Officers, given the length of the likely process, and the high-profile nature of the work, it is proposed that a Council-led group could provide continuity and appropriate oversight.
4. The WG will not have policy-making powers, these will be delegated to the relevant committee or to Council, depending on the area of work.
5. The Working Group will report to RCVS Council but will have the capacity to make decisions in line with the terms of reference to request other groups, such as committees, to consider packages of work that may be relevant or policy changes that could be made. It is to be noted that, due to the commercially sensitive nature of some of the work, it is likely that some reports will need to be made in confidential session.