

Summary

Meeting	Standards Committee
Date	27 April 2020
Title	Standards Committee Minutes
Summary	Minutes of Standards Committee held on Monday, 27 April 2020 at 10am remotely
Decisions required	n/a
Attachments	Classified appendix
Author	Nick Oldham Standards and Advice Manager n.oldham@rcvs.org.uk

Classifications

Document	Classification ¹	Rationales ²
Paper	Unclassified	n/a
Classified appendix	Confidential	1, 2 and 3

1Classifications explained

Unclassified	Papers will be published on the internet and recipients may share them and discuss them freely with anyone. This may include papers marked 'Draft'.
Confidential	Temporarily available only to Council Members, non-Council members of the relevant committee, sub-committee, working party or Board and not for dissemination outside that group unless and until the relevant committee or Council has given approval for public discussion, consultation or publication.
Private	The paper includes personal data which should not be disclosed at any time or for any reason, unless the data subject has agreed otherwise. The Chair may, however, indicate after discussion that there are general issues which can be disclosed, for example in reports to committees and Council.

2Classification rationales

Confidential	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To allow the Committee or Council to come to a view itself, before presenting to and/or consulting with others 2. To maintain the confidence of another organisation 3. To protect commercially sensitive information 4. To maintain public confidence in and/or uphold the reputation of the veterinary professions and/or the RCVS
Private	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. To protect information which may contain personal data, special category data, and/or criminal offence data, as listed under the General Data Protection Regulation

Minutes of the Standards Committee held on Monday, 27 April 2020 at 10 am remotely.

Members:	Prof D Argyle	
	Mr M Castle	
	Mrs L Cox	
	Dr M A Donald	Chair
	Mr D Leicester	
	Ms C-L McLaughlan	
	Mr M Peaty	
	Ms B Andrews-Jones	
	Miss L Belton	
	Dr C Allen	
 In attendance:	 Ms E C Ferguson	 Registrar
	Mrs G Kingswell	Head of Standards
	Mrs L Price	Head of Standards (Maternity Cover)
	Mr N Oldham	Standards and Advisory Manager
	Ms B Jinks	Senior Standards and Advisory Officer
	Ms K Richardson	Senior Standards and Advisory Officer/Solicitor
	Mr N Connell	President (observer from RCVS Officer Team)
	Ms L Lockett	CEO
	Mr B Myring	Policy and Public Affairs Manager (Present for AI 3(c))
	Mr I Holloway	Director of Communications (Present for AI 3(b))
	Mr A Roberts	Director of Leadership and Innovation (Present for AI 3(b))
	Mr P Jinman	Chair, Certification subcommittee (Present for AI 3(a))
	Dr K Sturgess	Certification subcommittee member (Present for AI 3(a))
	Mr C Barker	Certification subcommittee member (Present for AI 3(a))
	Prof E Cameron	Certification subcommittee member (Present for AI 3(a))

AI 1 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

- 1) The Chair welcomed the President and the CEO to the meeting as observers. There were no apologies and no declarations of interest received.
- 2) The Chair asked for consent to record the video stream of the meeting. There were no objections to this request. The Chair asked that those who have questions/comments put a note in the messaging section and they will be called on in turn.

AI 1 Minutes of last meetings held on 10 February 2020

- 3) It was agreed that the minutes of the last meeting are accurate.
- 4) In regards to the actions from the last meeting (unclassified minutes):
 - a) Paragraph 14 – The Committee were advised that the new PSS requirements and supporting guidance would be aligned when the PSS amendments go live.
 - b) Paragraph 22 – Following the last meeting, the Committee approved additional amendments requested to Chapter 11 of the supporting guidance and BVZS would be notified of the new guidance.
 - c) Paragraph 29 – The Standards and Advice Manager advised that the Audit and Risk Committee ('ARC') were pleased with the controls and measures in place regarding the Standards and Advice risk register. The ARC complimented the 'theme' based approach to risk and suggested other departments at the College may wish to follow this model.

AI 2 Standards and Advice Update

- 5) The Standards and Advice Manager provided an oral update on the volume of COVID-19 enquiries received by the College and measures implemented in order to address the increased number of telephone calls and emails, including additional support from other teams within the College.
- 6) The Committee enquired as to whether there have been any particular themes noted and were informed enquiries had varied as guidance from the government and College had been updated. It was noted that the Communications Department have also been receiving enquiries and these statistics could be considered.

Action: Standards and Advice Team/Communication Department

- 7) The Committee noted that it was felt that some members of the profession have been posting 'abusive' comments on social media platforms and asked whether teams at the College have been exposed to this. The Registrar confirmed that the College is aware of a small minority of the profession who have been making what might be described as "overly robust" comments. However, it is appreciated that these are difficult times.
- 8) The Standards and Advice Manager confirmed that a paper relating to equine identification and the draft framework on Recognised Veterinary Practice would be brought back to the Committee at its next meeting.

Matters for decision

AI 3(a) Certification – Confidential

- 9) Confidential information is available in the classified appendix at paragraphs 8 – 15.

AI 3(b) UCOOH – Confidential

- 10) Confidential information is available in the classified appendix at paragraphs 16 – 22.

AI 3(c) Badger Vaccination training – Confidential

- 11) Confidential information is available in the classified appendix at paragraphs 23 – 26.

AI 3(d) Professional indemnity insurance

- 12) The Head of Standards introduced the paper advising that the PIC/DC Liaison Committee had noted the supporting guidance did not explicitly state the purpose of Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) was to ensure that veterinary surgeons were covered in the event of claims for negligence. The guidance also did not set out that it is not a requirement to have cover for concerns raised with the College.
- 13) The Committee were advised that veterinary surgeons often presume that PII policies also provide cover in the event a concern is raised with the College, however, this is not always the case. This may be a particular issue for locums, who are in most circumstances covered for negligence under practice policies but may not be covered for anything else.

- 14) The Committee approved the proposed amendments to deal with PII and equivalent arrangements in the supporting guidance.

Action: Standards and Advice Team

AI 3(e) Social media case study

- 15) The Standards and Advice Manager recalled that at its February meeting the Committee requested the preparation of an additional case study to illustrate how social media platforms may be used in a positive manner. The additional case study will supplement those already approved.
- 16) The Committee approved the additional case study, with two amendments; the removal of reference to POM-Vs that cannot be advertised and the addition of an RVN.

Action: Standards and Advice Team

- 17) The Committee discussed what additional resources could be produced to support the profession when they received negative social media feedback. The Committee were advised that the BVA is going to run a CPD session on this subject, and the Mind Matters Initiative has guidance on cyberbullying, which is free online. The Committee suggested that these resources should be promoted alongside the case studies.

Action: Director of Communication

AI 4(a) Risk and equality

- 18) Risks associated with COVID-19 have been added to the Standards and Advice risk register.

Any other business and date of next meeting

- 19) There was no other business.

Date of next meeting

- 20) The date of the next meeting is 7 September 2020.

Table of unclassified actions

Paragraph	Action	Assigned to
6	Consider whether themes apparent from COVID-19 enquiries received	Standards and Advice/Communications Team
14	Update supporting guidance with approved PII amendments	Standards and Advice Team
16	Amend social media case study as directed	Standards and Advice Team
17	Consider promoting BVA/Mind Matters resources regarding use of social media	Director of Communications