



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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www.gov.uk/defra

29 October 2015

Dear Consultee

Consultation on Proposed Amendments to the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 (VSA)

I am writing to invite your views on our proposals to amend the constitution of the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), the statutory regulator of the veterinary profession.

This consultation will look at the current constitution (size & membership) of the RCVS governing body, the RCVS Council, to see if it can be modified to operate more efficiently and in the better interests of the public and the veterinary profession. The consultation sets out a number of possible options for change.

The current constitution and governance arrangements for the Council are laid down prescriptively in primary legislation. The relevant legislation is Section 1 of and Schedule 1 to the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966. Because the VSA is primary legislation, any proposed changes can only be made through a Bill, or a Legislative Reform Order under the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006. As these are minor changes, it has been agreed that the best legislative vehicle to achieve these changes is a Legislative Reform Order (LRO).

Further information may be found on Defra's website:

[RCVS Consultation](#)

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation, please contact:

Aroon Korgaonkar
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Veterinary Professional Services Team
Area 5B Nobel House

17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR.

rcvsconsultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Responses

To submit your consultation response please complete the consultation questionnaire provided through Citizen Space (Citizen Space is an on-line consultation tool).

Responses should be received by 24 December 2015.

Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries, please contact us as above.

Yours faithfully

Gayle Foston

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Consultation Criteria

1. This consultation is issued in line with the Governments Consultation Principles (<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance>).
2. When this consultation ends, copies of the responses to this consultation will be made available to the public on request. Please contact the Zoonoses Policy Team (address above) if you would like copies.
3. If you **do not** want your response - including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request.
4. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. However, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.
5. We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at www.gov.uk/defra. This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.
6. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to:

Defra Consultation Co-ordinator,
Room 629
9 Millbank
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR
Or email consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk.