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- Immediate Release



VETERINARY SURGEONS ACT 1966

The House of Commons, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee (EFRA) has decided to undertake an inquiry into the need to replace the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966. The Committee will consider whether the provisions of the 1966 Act are out of step with developments in the veterinary surgeon and related professions.

The EFRA Committee has invited evidence on the following changes to the 1966 Act which have been proposed by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons:

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- Whether the provisions of the 1966 Act are out of step with developments in the veterinary surgeon and related professions;
- Whether there ought to be regulation of providers of veterinary care other than veterinary surgeons;
- Whether the delivery of veterinary services ought to be regulated through a mandatory practice standards scheme, with a professional code of ethics, rather than the RCVS regulating practitioners on an individual basis;
- Whether the RCVS and Veterinary Nurses Council (VNC) should be given the power to require continuing professional development and revalidation;
- Whether the governing body of the RCVS and VNC ought to include appointed lay persons as well as veterinary professionals;
- Whether the RCVS and VNC ought to have a separate conduct committee with the powers to investigate complaints, give warnings and to make interim orders pending proceedings; and
- Whether the RCVS ought to have the power to delegate specified procedures to people holding qualifications recognised by the RCVS Council. ”

The Farriers Registration Council has been invited to provide comments to the Committee on these proposals.

A meeting of the Veterinary Surgeons/Services Act Working Group with representatives from the Worshipful Company of Farriers (WCF), National Association of Farriers, Blacksmiths and Agricultural Engineers (NAFBAE) and the Farriers Registration Council (FRC) is scheduled for 3 September 2007 in order to consider the proposals with a view to formulating a tri-partite response on behalf of all three organisations.

In addition, Lantra the Sector Skills Council for Farriery and Veterinary Nursing will be submitting a response.

Any Registered Farrier who would like to make comment can:

- a) Advise the FRC by e-mail at frc@farrier-reg.gov.uk or in writing to the Council Secretary, Sefton House, Adam Court, Newark Road, Peterborough, PE1 5PP, of any views they would like the tri-partite Committee to consider in formulating their response.
- b) Provide input to Lantra by e-mail to Janet.Steele@lantra.co.uk
- c) Provide a written submission direct to the EFRA Committee. Details of how to make a direct submission and the deadline can be found at www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/environment_food_and_rural_affairs/efra_veterinarysurgeons.cfm

Ends.

Contact Information

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