

Northern Ireland Branch Council

Role description and person specification

Overall purpose

To ensure that Northern Ireland Branch Council fulfils its primary role of:

- contributing to the furtherance of BVA's mission to be the leading body representing, supporting and championing the whole UK veterinary profession, through engagement with members;
- fostering the interests of the veterinary profession in Northern Ireland;
- promoting BVA in Northern Ireland;
- assisting BVA in its activities by advising on the consensus view of Northern Ireland members on Northern Ireland and United Kingdom issues particularly with reference to the NI Assembly, DAERA, the Ulster Farmers' Union and Northern Ireland animal welfare organisations;
- promoting meetings in any part of Northern Ireland for the discussion of veterinary topics and kindred subjects.

Duties and activities

- Taking part in Branch Council teleconferences twice a year and attending the Branch AGM.
- Reading papers, research and other information presented to Branch Council in preparation for debates and discussions.
- Contributing actively to the work of Branch outside of the meetings via Glasscubes.
- Liaising closely with and supporting the other members of Branch Council.
- Representing Northern Ireland Branch to stakeholders and at external meetings, in liaison with the secretariat.
- Supporting BVA Young Vet Network activity in Northern Ireland.
- Safeguarding and promoting the good name and values of BVA and Northern Ireland Branch.
- Complying with the BVA Code of Conduct for volunteers.

Term of office

Branch Council members shall nominally serve for a term of up to three years.

Person specification

- Resident in Northern Ireland
- MRCVS and BVA membership.

- Commitment to promoting and furthering the interests of the veterinary profession, and of BVA and Northern Ireland Branch.
- Willingness to commit the necessary time and effort to fulfil the specified duties and activities.
- Interest in and some knowledge of veterinary politics.

Knowledge, skills and experience

Not all of these are essential for each individual but across Branch Council we require a mix of:

- Committee experience
- Policy development skills and experience
- Strategic thinking
- Evidence gathering and research
- Analysis and evaluation
- Excellent oral communication skills and ability to engage positively in debate and discussion
- Decision making
- Team work
- Problem solving
- Understanding of the political and cultural climate in which BVA seeks to influence policy makers
- Understanding of the current veterinary landscape, and in particular the issues impacting on Northern Ireland

Other

Across Branch Council we are looking to ensure a range of expertise, interests, and backgrounds.

Expenses

Membership of Branch Council is voluntary and unpaid but members are reimbursed for travel and other expenses incurred, in line with [BVA's member expenses policy](#).

Declarations of interest and confidentiality

All members of Branch Council are required to complete a confidentiality agreement and declarations of interest form at the start of their term, and to notify the secretariat if the declaration needs to be updated

For more information please contact ameliaf@bva.co.uk

Last updated: June 2020