

BVA Northern Ireland Branch Council members

Role description and person specification

Overall purpose of Northern Ireland Branch Council is to:

- contribute 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.
- foster the interests of the veterinary profession in Northern Ireland;
- promote the BVA in Northern Ireland
- assist the British Veterinary Association (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 Farmer's Union and Northern Ireland animal welfare organisations;
- promote 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
- 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

Expenses and benefits

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

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

All Branch Council members are expected to act with honesty and integrity at all times, upholding the values of BVA and representing the interests of BVA members.

Members of Branch Council, from time to time, may have access to privileged or confidential information, and must treat such information in strict confidence

Council communications

Some Branch Council work takes place via closed email loops. Members should ensure that the secretariat has their current active email address. Guidance on using the emails loops is available.

For more information, please contact the BVA policy team on 020 7908 6370 or via policy@bva.co.uk