

AVSPNI

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The directors present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are specifically restricted to the promotion of the following purposes for the benefit of the public:

- The advancement of education by promoting, managing, co-ordinating, and developing a programme for education of Veterinary Surgeons who are in practice in Northern Ireland or elsewhere;
- The advancement of animal welfare by representing and advocating for Veterinary Surgeons and animals in need of care and protection; and
- The advancement of health or the saving of lives of veterinary practitioners in Northern Ireland who are suffering from, have suffered from or are at risk of mental or physical health problems for the benefit of the public particularly by the dissemination of information and assistance within the veterinary profession.

There has been no change in the policies adopted in furtherance of these objects during the year.

The charity aims to fulfill its objectives through the following:

- the provision of training courses and advice and to publish or distribute in a suitable format;
- to be a member of and co-operate with all such bodies, organisations and associations, whether within Northern Ireland and United Kingdom or not, as may be thought fit by the directors;
- to raise funds by subscription, donations, grants, loans or otherwise for the purposes of the charity.

The directors have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

In this financial year AVSPNI has delivered 2 x multi-day conferences – one for Small Animal vets and vet nurses and one for Small Animal and Large Animal vets, plus 7 evening meetings and 1 full day of education and networking.

AVSPNI has engaged with organisations and working groups including, but not limited to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA); the Agri-Food and Bio-sciences Institute (AFBI); Animal Health and Welfare Northern Ireland (AHWNI); British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA); The Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons (SPVS); The North of Ireland Veterinary Association (NIVA); Rural Support; Ulster Farmers Union (UFU); Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS); RCVS Knowledge - Farm Vet Champions; Young Vet Network (YVN-NI); Veterinary Ireland; LANTRA Council; VetNI Board: Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Implementation Group (BVDIG); TB Stakeholder Working Group (TBSWG); Animal Health and Welfare Stakeholders Forum (AHWSF); the Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC); Vet Support Northern Ireland; British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA); Veterinary Practice Managers Association (VPMA); Northern Ireland Sheep Scab Group; The Links Group; Harper Adams University; the British Veterinary Association (BVA); The College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE).

Ongoing engagement with the bodies listed above is anticipated in the coming year. AVSPNI also initiated a Graduate Development Programme - a series of full and practical days' training with topics carefully chosen to upskill and build confidence for new veterinary graduates working in Northern Ireland. This series of events rolled out from September 2023 but the planning took place in financial year ending 31st August 2023.

AVSPNI remains flexible and able to respond quickly to amend its programme of education to meet changing needs, e.g. novel disease challenges.

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DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Financial review

The results are set out in detail on pages 5 to 11. The company returned net incoming resources for the year of £6,249 (2022: £37,449) leaving unrestricted funds of £436,402 (2022: £430,153).

The unrestricted funds are considered to be essential to provide sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise and fulfil legal obligations of the charity in the event that current levels of income are not maintained.

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The directors consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

Structure, governance and management

The charitable company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The company is not for profit and limited by guarantee.

The directors who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr P Walsh
Mr M Watts
Mrs M Spahn-Holmes
Mr I Smith
Mr K Sheridan
Mr S O'Kane
Mr S Murray
Mr K McKeeman
Mrs P Hart
Mr C Carr
Mrs L Hamilton
Mr M Allison
Mr G Bell
Mr L Fitzsimons
Ms K Henderson
Mr C McCrea
Ms S Menzies

The charity is governed by its Board of Directors who meet regularly.

None of the directors has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the directors are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption.

The directors' report was approved by the Board of Directors.



Mr P Walsh
Director

Date: 22/5/2024