



## **AHVLA Briefing Note 06/14**

### **Contract Awarded for Training of Official Veterinarians**

#### **Purpose**

1. To inform you that AHVLA has awarded the contract for the training and revalidation of Official Veterinarians (OVs) operating in England, Scotland and Wales to Improve International.

#### **Background**

2. In 2013, AHVLA announced a new approach to the training and authorisation of OVs in order to enhance veterinary standards and increase the quality and accessibility of training. Following a competitive tender exercise, Improve International has been selected as AHVLA's OV training provider and is now preparing for the launch of a new OV qualification, the 'Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary), or OCQ (V).
3. OCQ (V)s will be delivered via blended learning methods, in conjunction with Improve International's assessment partner, the European School of Veterinary Postgraduate Studies (ESVPS), and Harper Adams University, which will validate the qualification.
4. Existing OVs will be granted 'grandfather rights', meaning that already experienced OVs will not need to undertake initial training. To qualify they must register on the new system between August 2014, when a new registration database is launched, and 31 March 2015. A revalidation requirement is however being introduced for all OVs to ensure that quality standards are maintained.
5. Under the new system individuals, or their employers, will fund their own training, but the cost of between £99 and £249 plus VAT per training or revalidation module is likely to be more than offset by the benefits offered by the new approach, including:
  - More accessible training, with trainees able to access the majority of content online without having to travel and be absent from their business to attend courses.

- Qualifications will count towards Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements, will offer optional higher education credits, and will be fully portable.
6. A detailed Q&A on the new approach has been published on the AHVLA website at: <http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/training-and-authorisation/index.htm>.

### **Implementing the new approach**

7. Improve International's registration database will go live in August and you will be contacted again then with further details. A one-time fee of £59 (plus VAT) will apply at the time of registration, however there will be a discount - reducing to £39 plus VAT - for existing OVs registering before 9 January 2015. This registration fee is separate to fees for OCQ (V) training or revalidation modules. For further information visit: [www.improve-ov.com](http://www.improve-ov.com).
8. The first OCQ (V) training is also scheduled to be available in August 2014. The detail and cost of each OCV (Q) will be announced as each module is finalised and introduced, but the cost of modules will not exceed £249 for the duration of the three-year contract.

### **About Improve International**

9. Improve International was founded in 1998 by veterinary surgeons from across the UK, including a number of recognised experts. Based in Swindon, it provides high quality CPD in a range of formats for veterinary surgeons, veterinary nurses, receptionists and practice managers to help them develop their skills and knowledge, using a combination of review lectures, case-based discussion and where, applicable, hands-on practical sessions. For further information visit: <http://www.improveinternational.com/uk>

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