



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 33/20

Implementation of the APHA contract for the Provision of Veterinary and Paraprofessional Training, Authorisation and Assurance Services: Temporary Unavailability of OV Training.

Date issued: 21 October 2020

Purpose

To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) that the improve-ov.com website for OV training will be unavailable from 00.01 on 2 November 2020 to 23.59 on 3 November 2020. OVs will be unable to access the OCQ(V) training during this time.

The downtime is to enable the changes required under the new APHA contract to be fully implemented and tested.

The Animal Health Paraprofessional website (for Approved Tuberculin Testers and Certification Support Officers) will be unaffected.

Background

Training and authorisation for OVs is delivered via the contract currently held by Improve International Limited. Following the retender earlier this year, Improve International have been awarded the new contract.

Details of the new contract were published in the APHA OV Briefing Note 26/20 detailed below.

A transition period is now in place during which Improve International are working closely with APHA to ensure that all the requirements for the new contract are implemented. The transition period is due to end on the 2 November 2020, when the new contract will commence.

In order to complete the transition to the new contract, the OV website will be unavailable for two days, during which time OVs will be unable to access any training. Most OVs who commence training prior to 2 November but do not complete it before the website downtime will be able to resume the training from where they left off once the website becomes available again. However, there are some courses which will also be updated during this time; affected OVs will be notified separately and may wish to complete their online training before 2 November

Any OVs who have a deadline for completion of any OCQ(V) revalidation between 2 November and 16 November 2020 and who are unable to complete their training within the deadline because of the temporary unavailability of the website can send a request to APHA for a short extension to their deadline. The completed TR588 request form, which can be found on the Vet Gateway using the link below, must be submitted to the APHA OV team.

Further Information

OV Briefing Notes:

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/ov/Briefing-Note-2620.pdf>

Improve International:

<https://www.improve-ov.com/home/>

APHA OV Team:

CSCOneHealthOVTeam@apha.gov.uk

Vet Gateway Extensions Process and TR588 application form:

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk//official-vets/training-and-authorisation/index.htm>