

Biographies of those seeking re-election or election to the Board



Raman Sankaran

BA PGDip FIDM

I am seeking election to the Board, to the post of Chief Executive Officer.

I have over 25 years of commercial experience in a range of different sectors including financial services, healthcare (human and animal), retail and professional services, including working in the mutual sector. In more recent times, this experience has been in leading teams and businesses, and in developing business strategy and implementing plans to deliver value to customers and members.

Most recently, I held the post of Chief Commercial Officer at Simplyhealth, developing new businesses, propositions and partnerships to support over three million members, and their pets, with their healthcare needs, in a regulated environment. These members included vets, dentists, other healthcare professionals as well as businesses and people.

It would be an honour and a privilege to be elected to the Board of VDS, and to lead the team to build further on its legacy and position in a market vital to the fabric of the community.



Gavin Lawrie

BVMS CertEP MRCVS

I am seeking re-election for a second three year term as Non-Executive Director.

I qualified as a veterinary surgeon in 1994 and worked in three equine practices in the south of England over the following 10 years, punctuated with a couple of foaling season positions in Australia. On returning to Scotland I helped develop a new equine practice in Renfrewshire. I attained my RCVS certificate in equine practice in 1999 and my advanced practitioner status in 2015. After a period in partnership, I bought the practice and developed The Equine Vet Clinic in a new purpose-built facility in 2013, which is an RCVS accredited

equine practice. In 2014 I launched an adjoining small animal practice, and I remain actively engaged in its development. My interests are divided between providing high quality first opinion equine services and the rapidly changing landscape of practice management.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the last 3 years working within the VDS helping to shape its future and maintain close links with and better understand its members. There appears to be no reduction in the pace of change and no one could have predicted some of the challenges we face today. I strive to ensure that members' concerns remain central to the Society's ethos and plans.