

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



Brian Bussell

I am seeking re-election for a second three-year term to the post of Non-Executive Director.

I am a qualified Actuary and I have worked in insurance at Aviva for over 30 years. My roles included Proposition Director, developing insurance products and services for the UK market, Pensions Customer Experience Director ensuring excellent service delivery to Aviva's customers, Managing Director of Aviva's Bulk Annuity business and Director of Aviva Investors Pensions Limited overseeing the governance and performance of a range of pension funds.

I left in 2013 to pursue a portfolio career and my current roles include:

- Trustee Director of the Aviva Staff Pension Scheme and Chair of the Audit, Operations and Governance Committee

- Trustee Director of the Friends Provident Pension Scheme and Chair of the Investment, Funding and Covenant Committee

- Chair and Trustee Director of the Police Mutual Pension Scheme.

I have experience in many aspects of financial services from company strategy, change management, investment management, proposition design through sales and service delivery, together with a sound experience of managing teams of varying sizes.

I think VDS is an excellent company with a fantastic reputation with its customers and long may this continue. The world and the market is constantly changing and I would be honoured to be part of the team to guide VDS through the challenges of the commercial and financial environment over the next three years.



Richard Coates

I am seeking election to the Board, to the post of Non-Executive Director.

I have over 30 years' experience in the retail financial services sector, serving as a partner at KPMG from 1985 to 2003. I am a chartered accountant, an experienced financial services auditor, and I have chaired a number of Audit and Risk Committees since my retirement from KPMG. I am a Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Audit Committee at Skipton Building Society,

and I was appointed in October 2016 as Chair of the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee at TPT Retirement Solutions, where I am also a member of the Remuneration Committee.

I welcome the opportunity to join the Board of the Veterinary Defence Society, an organisation that stays true to its mutual ethos and puts the member at the centre of its thinking and focus.



Colin Thomson

I am seeking re-election for a third three-year term, to the post of Non-Executive Director.

I qualified as a vet in 1978 and spent all my working career in general practice. For over 30 years I was a partner in a large independent mixed practice in Yorkshire. I have a strong interest in veterinary business development and gained an MBA in 2006. I am a past Treasurer and President of SPVS and a Trustee of the SPVS Educational Trust.

Over the past six years, I have been part the VDS Board that has overseen significant changes at the Society, including the introduction of practice insurance, and the creation of VDS Training, VetSafe and VDS Support. This work is aimed

at keeping the VDS relevant to the needs of its members. The continued corporatisation of the profession in the UK and external issues such as Brexit put a new range of pressures on the Society. More change is inevitable. However, is it important that the VDS continues to focus on the needs of its members. Mutuality and its communal ownership model are our bedrock, and I consider it vitally important that we continue to prioritise protection of individual vet's professional reputation from unwarranted attack.

If re-elected, I look forward to continuing the challenge of assisting, through the Board, in keeping the VDS financially secure and focused on the evolving needs of its members.



Sarah Wolfensohn

I am seeking re-election for a third three-year term, to the post of Non-Executive Director at VDS.

I qualified as a veterinary surgeon in 1981, and I am currently appointed to the position of Professor of Animal Welfare at the University of Surrey's School of Veterinary Medicine and also work as an independent consultant in animal health and welfare to clients from the pharmaceutical industry, academia, animal welfare organisations, and funding agencies and governments; both in the UK and overseas. I am an RCVS recognised specialist in Laboratory Animal Science and hold European diplomas in Laboratory Animal Medicine and in Animal Welfare, Ethics and Law.

I have the background clinical experience from general practice, academia and the pharmaceutical industry to recognise what the profession needs from its mutual insurance company, as well as the managerial experience and communication skills to challenge the Executive to deliver, and to understand the regulatory environment that controls mutual insurance companies.

I would be pleased to continue for another term as a Non-Executive Director for the VDS to progress the strategic plan and maintain the Company's role for supporting our profession.

The Veterinary Defence Society Limited

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