

# Frequently Asked Questions



## **What is PIPR?**

PIPR is the new Pig Industry Professional Register. This scheme is the pig industry's answer to Continuous Professional Development (CPD). Although this may sound like a new concept, it is what many producers have been doing unconsciously for years: investing in and developing staff.

CPD is common in many other professions, just ask your vet. However, unlike other professions, PIPR is a completely voluntary scheme, which has been developed by the industry to work for the industry.

## **What is the point of PIPR?**

PIPR aims to encourage people to better themselves and progress within the pig industry through Continuous Professional Development. PIPR aims to formally record, recognise and reward the huge amount of personal training and professional development that already has been, and is currently being, undertaken within the industry; but which currently goes largely unrecognised. It also aims to encourage progression within the industry whether it is simply becoming better within the same role or moving onwards into a higher role.

## **What are the benefits of being a member of PIPR?**

PIPR has been set up so that it will:

- promote an improved, professional, image of the pig industry to the general public
- recognise not only formal skills and training, but also the importance of experience, practical development and other learning opportunities
- establish an independent record of skill amongst its members making it easier for staff to progress in their chosen career
- promote a clearer image of personal development for new members to the industry
- develop well-deserved respect for the progressive members of the pig industry amongst peers, allied industries and the public.
- raise productivity and profitability
- provide a positive response to animal welfare, environmental management and bio security issues
- raise self-esteem and confidence in the workforce
- ease recruitment issues

## **How do I join?**

To join PIPR you need to complete the application form and return it to NPTC (the PIPR Administrator, NPTC, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LG). If joining on the basis of qualifications gained, evidence of these needs to be sent in with the application<sup>1</sup>. If joining on the basis of experience a pro forma letter signed by a referee is required with the application. Payment is also required before the membership can be activated.

---

<sup>1</sup> If the qualification is from the NPTC or City and Guilds then the evidence does not need to be sent, as the Administrator will have access to these records. However, it may speed up the process if you have this information to hand.

### **If it is voluntary why do I have to pay to join?**

As the scheme is set up to provide an independent record of members details, it is essential that it is run professionally. To run the scheme and maintain its integrity, a fee must be charged to cover the costs. NPTC does not make a profit from administering the PIPR scheme

### **How much will it cost to join?**

An initial registration fee of £6 will be charged to all new members. In addition to this there is an annual fee of £24. However, you can save money by paying for three years in one go. This will cost you £60 (£66 including initial registration fee).

### **How can I pay?**

Payment can be made by cheque or debit/credit card. The relevant details can be found on the application form.

### **How will the scheme work?**

There are five levels in the scheme, membership of each is dependent on the qualifications you hold, the practical experience you have or a combination of both. It is up to you to decide the most appropriate level for you (there is guidance to the entry requirements with the application form). Each membership lasts for three years subject to all fees been paid, during this time you will have to collect a set number of points. These points can be collected in a variety of ways (see below) and will be added to your membership when the administration team receive evidence that you attended the event.

The levels and minimum points requirement (over the three year term) are listed below:

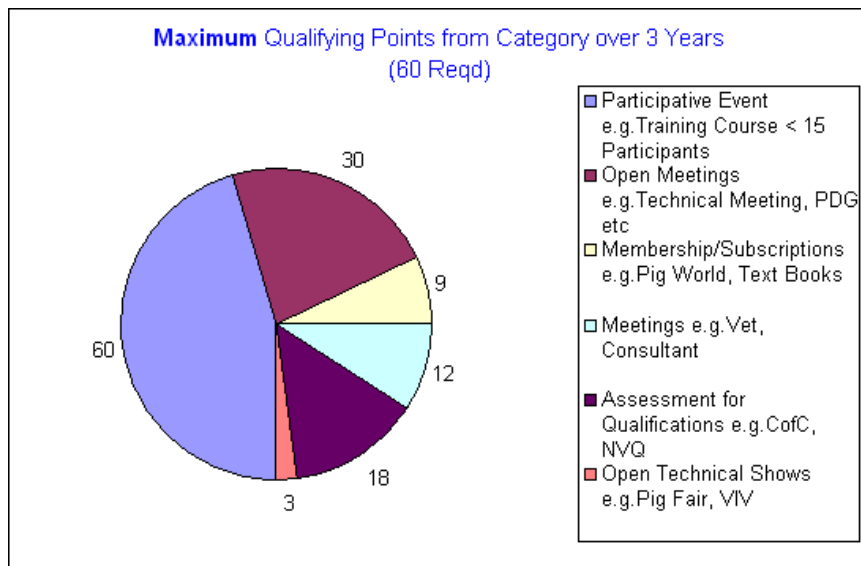
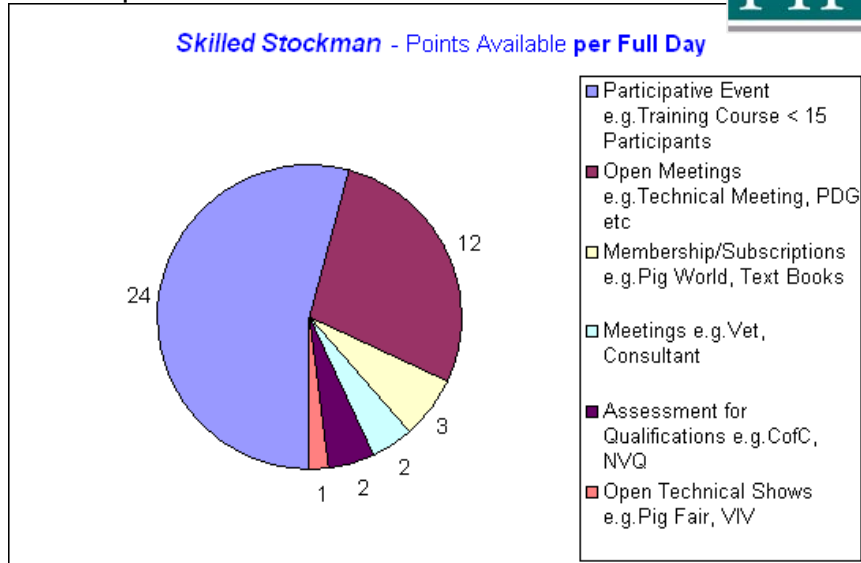
<b>Level</b>	<b>Points</b>
1 New Entrant	60
2 Skilled Stockman	60
3 Supervisor	90
4 Manager/owner	120
5 Advisor/associate	120

### **How does the point system work?**

As a member of the scheme, you will be notified how many points you need to collect over the three years. When you attend an event, which has been registered under the PIPR scheme, there will be a register to sign to record your attendance. Complete all the details on this form and the organisers will do the rest. Depending on when the register is sent back, your points will appear on your statement within a couple of weeks.

The only time you have to apply for your own points is when you are claiming points for a vet visit or you have been on a course, not run specifically for the pig industry.

For examples of how points can be collected see below:



**Why are there a maximum number of points that can be collected for certain activities?**

As can be seen in the above diagram, certain methods of collecting points have a maximum. This is to ensure that people get credit for taking part in a variety of events, which will help keep the learning and development process interesting.

**What if I collect more points than I need?**

Collecting points is relatively simple and for those more active members, they may reach their total early. Unfortunately these points will not be carried over to the next term, but you may be able to move up a level and start a new term (see below).

**Why do I need to collect points, when I have years of experience**

PIPR is seeking to formally acknowledge skill levels with the minimum amount of paperwork and to encourage further development. The PIPR administration recognises that there are many true professionals already in the industry, and by registering with the scheme these people will be formally and independently recognised as such. As the only register in the worldwide pig industry, just think of the message we can send out to consumers of British pork!

**Can I move up a level before the end of my three year term, if I pass qualifications/gain more relevant experience?**

Yes, the main reason of the PIPR scheme is to encourage progression within the industry through personal development, and as such movement to higher levels is encouraged.

Should you pass the relevant qualifications, or gain the relevant amount of experience to be a member of a higher level you can move up, as long as you have collected at least half of the points required by your original level.

If you do want to move up a level, then contact the PIPR administrator. They will review your change of circumstance and alter your level accordingly. If you do move up a level you will start a new three-year term at the higher level.

**I have been to a registered course but I am not a member yet, do I still get points?**

Unless you signed a register then unfortunately you won't get the points. However, whenever you attend an event, sign the register and keep a note of this. When you do send in your membership application, please provide them with details of the events you have attended and they can check their records and add the points to your account. This will only happen for a short period whilst the scheme gets up and running.

In the near future, you will only be able to collect points if you are a member.

**What happens if I don't get enough points within the three years?**

If it looks like you would be short of points towards the end of the three year period, NPTC will advise accordingly in good time, to allow you to get enough points. If at the end of the three years you are still short of CPD points, your membership will be suspended and you will be given 90 days in which to collect the points. If you fail to achieve that within the 90 days, you will cease to be on the register and you cannot re-apply for membership for a period of twelve months from the original anniversary date. Re-application would then be on the same basis of your original entry and you would start a new membership from scratch.

**Will being a member of PIPR become compulsory with assurance schemes?**

The PIPR has been set up to provide independent recognition of the skills within the pig industry. It is not intended, and will not be marketed, as a register required by assurance schemes.

However, it should be noted that many assurance schemes already require evidence of training. Instead of having to collect all your paperwork from the previous years training, imagine how easy it will be to show your membership card and prove very quickly you meet this *existing* requirement.

The strength of PIPR is that it is an independent and *voluntary*, two key factors that the administration team are determined to maintain. If the scheme were to become compulsory the whole ethos and intentions of the scheme will be undermined.