

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS**

**INQUIRY RE:**

**A, A REGISTERED VETERINARY NURSE**






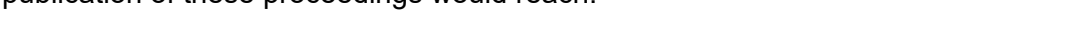
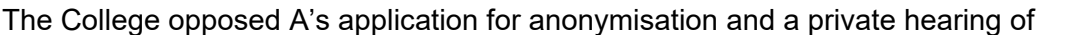


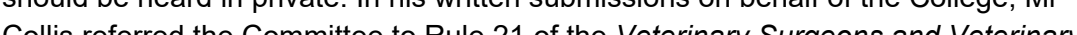
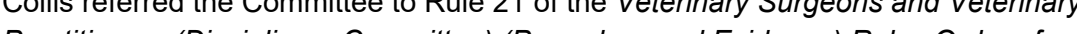

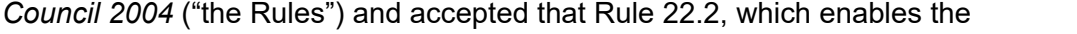






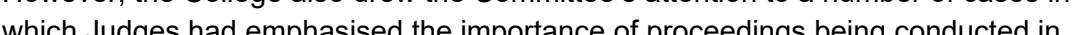
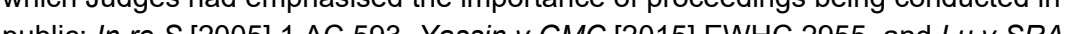
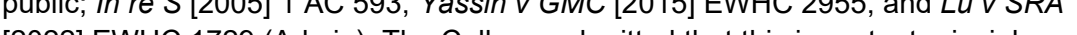

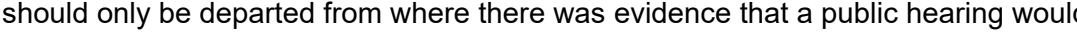



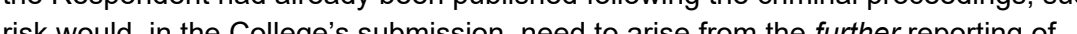



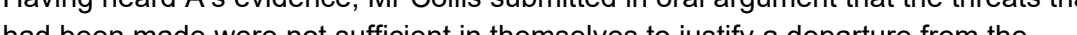
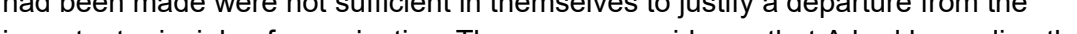



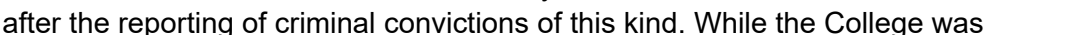

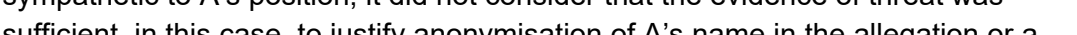





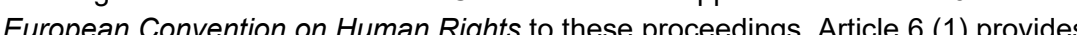
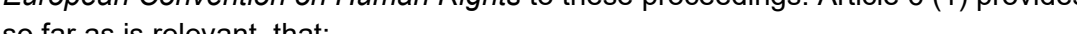


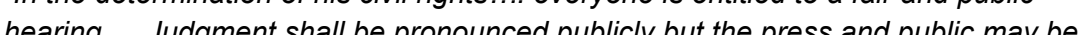
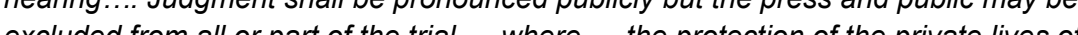
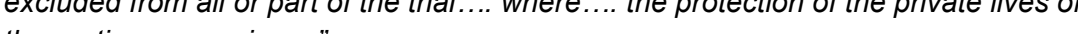








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**ANNEX A**

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**Annex A**

1. Respondent A ["A"] gave oral evidence to the Committee in support of an application for anonymisation of the Allegation and a private hearing of this disciplinary proceeding. A feared for A's personal safety and that of A's parents, [REDACTED] if A's name and address and a report of these proceedings were published. A's appearance at the Crown Court was reported in a local newspaper and this resulted in explicit threats to A's life and health which appeared on social media. The social media site had removed the article after these threats had been made. A's parents had taken various security precautions, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] A referred the Committee to various WhatsApp messages written by A's mother, which showed her anxiety about social media posts, and to [REDACTED]

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7. The Legal Assessor also referred the Committee to the practice in the High Court in relation to anonymisation, as set out in the *Civil Procedure Rules CPR 39.2 (4)*.  
*“The Court must order that the identity of any person shall not be disclosed if, and only if, it considers non-disclosure necessary to secure the proper administration of justice and in order to protect the interests of that person”.*
8. Rule 21. 1 and 2 of the Rules provide, so far as is relevant, that  
*“21.1 Subject to paragraphs 21.2 ....., all proceedings before the Committee shall.....be held in public.*  
*21.2. The Committee may direct that the public shall be excluded from any proceedings or any part of any proceedings, where it appears to the Committee that this would be in the interests of justice. The Committee shall not make any direction under this paragraph excluding the public from the announcement of a finding, determination or judgment of the Committee under these Rules”*
9. The Legal Assessor advised that it was necessary for the Committee to consider carefully the evidence and submissions of both the College and the Respondent in relation to this issue and to determine whether the risk of a violation of the Respondent’s Convention rights was sufficiently serious as to justify allowing A’s application.
10. The Committee recognised the importance of open justice, confirmed by the judicial observations included in the College’s written submissions. It recognised that it had to weigh the seriousness of the threats to A’s life and well-being, together with that of A’s parents, against this important principle.
11. The Committee considered that there were two elements to be considered in relation to threat. One element was the posting of threatening communications on social media sites and the precautions that had been taken as a result of these postings. The Committee accepted that A was genuinely fearful for A’s and A’s parents’ safety as a result of these postings. The other element was A’s own state of health, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].
12. Balancing these various considerations, the Committee concluded that it would be justified in anonymising A’s name in the Allegation and the identity of the Respondent in these proceedings so as to protect the interests and health of A and A’s family. The Committee was also satisfied, as was not disputed, that it was appropriate for any evidence in relation to A’s health to be heard in private.
13. The Committee decided that this was as far as it was appropriate to go in relation to A’s application for anonymisation and a private hearing. The Committee was in no doubt that, subject to the matters referred to in paragraph 12, the remainder of the hearing should be in public. It recognised the strong public interest in open reporting of this type of hearing.

**DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**  
**25 October 2022**

