The RCVS set up its Brexit Presidential Taskforce in July 2016, which led to the publication of our three Brexit Principles.

We would like any negotiations around our exit from the EU to ensure that:

• Vital veterinary work continues to get done, by maintaining and strengthening the veterinary workforce:
  - By increasing the number of home-grown vets and nurses, to offset any reduction in the migration of the workforce from overseas
  - By increasing both the capacity of UK vet schools and their funding levels

• High standards of animal welfare remain and improve:
  - We are advocating a reform of mutual recognition of professional qualifications
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• RCVS remains a global force for good:
  - By expanding our global membership and our mental health project, the Mind Matters Initiative
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For further information, please contact Ben Myring, Senior Policy and Public Affairs Officer, at b.myring@rcvs.org.uk or on 020 7202 0783

Brexit and the veterinary profession
The facts

As a net importer of veterinary surgeons from Europe, the Brexit referendum poses both risks and opportunities for the UK. As of June 2017 the RCVS Register currently includes 6,803 non-UK European nationals, of whom 82% are registered as UK-practising. According to a survey conducted by the Institute of Employment Studies (IES) on our behalf, 87% are employed full time. This is in contrast to our 2014 Survey of the Profession data, which showed 65% of all vets are employed full time, illustrating the significant contribution of non-UK EU vets to the workforce. In addition, our registration data suggests 40% of UK-practising non-UK EU vets will not have been registered for five years by 1 March 2019.

88% of respondents believe there would be a potential shortage of veterinary surgeons if non-UK EU vets are no longer able to practise here. Although it is too early to say with confidence, our data suggests new EU registrations are already levelling off, whereas in previous years they have been rising. This could seriously impact the meat production sector as we know that approximately 90% of vets working in public health are non-UK EU graduates. Clinical practice and education sectors also highly likely to be affected, with 78% of survey respondents working in clinical practice.

16% of respondents have personally experienced prejudice at work following the referendum, with a further 22% saying they had observed it.

Open up for more facts and figures from our report
The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons calls for certainty around the rights of EU nationals working in the UK
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Numbers

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Shortage of vets

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Prejudice

16% of respondents have personally experienced prejudice at work following the referendum, with a further 22% saying they had observed it.

Open up for more facts and figures from our report
Facts & figures

DEMOGRAPHICS

The gender split for responses was 60% female and 40% male, while the mean average age was 36.

COUNTRY OF QUALIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Republic of Ireland</td>
<td>6%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

AREA OF WORK

Our 2014 Survey of the Veterinary Profession data showed 65% of all vets are employed full time, in contrast to the Brexit survey data, which shows 87% of non-UK EU vets are employed full time.

78% of vets are in clinical practice

Of the remaining 22%...

38% Food Standards Agency
21% Animal and Plant Health Agency
18% Higher education

EXPERIENCES OF PREJUDICE

16% of respondents said they had personally experienced prejudice at work following the vote to leave the EU, with 22% saying they had observed it.

CONTINUING TO WORK IN THE UK

- 73% of respondents said they would like to continue to work in the UK
- 64% feel less welcome
- 41% are not optimistic about their future
- 67% are finding the uncertainty about their future difficult
- 44% feel fearful about the future
- 40% said they have reduced job security
- 40% said they are more likely to leave
- 18% are actively looking for work outside the UK
- 79% are awaiting the outcome of the Brexit negotiations before deciding what to do

IMPACT ON VETERINARY SECTOR

88% of respondents believed that the UK will have a shortage of veterinary surgeons if non-UK EU national vets are no longer welcome in the country.

77% believe that EU-graduate vets are also less likely to apply to join the UK Register.

DEMOGRAPHICS

COUNTRY OF QUALIFICATION

AREA OF WORK

EXPERIENCES OF PREJUDICE

CONTINUING TO WORK IN THE UK

IMPACT ON VETERINARY SECTOR
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[www.rcvs.org.uk/Brexit](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/Brexit)