

Summary	
Meeting	Education Committee
Date	10 May 2022
Title	Education Committee Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2022
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Decisions required	To note
Attachments	Classified Appendix
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Classifications		
Document	Classification <sup>1</sup>	Rationales <sup>2</sup>
Paper	Unclassified	
Classified appendix	<b>Confidential</b>	1

## Education Committee

### Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2022

<b>Members:</b>	Dr Niall Connell	
	Ms Linda Ford	- Lay member
	Professor Tim Parkin	
	Mrs Susan Howarth	
	Dr Susan (Sue) Paterson	- Chair
	Professor Chris Proudman	
	Professor Stuart Reid	
	Professor Susan Rhind	
	Dr Colin Whiting	
	Ms Anna Bradbury	- Student representative
	Ms Kate Dakin	- Student representative
<b>By invitation:</b>	Dr Melissa Donald	- CertAVP Subcommittee Chair
	Mr Danny Chambers	- Adv Practitioner Panel Chair
	Dr Joanne Dyer	- PQSC Chair
	*Dr Mandisa Greene	- VetGDP subcommittee Chair
	*Professor Nigel Gibbens	- Chair of Accreditation Review Group
<b>In attendance:</b>	Mr Duncan Ash	- Senior Education Officer
	Dr Jude Bradbury	- Examinations Manager
	Dr Linda Prescott-Clements	- Director of Education
	Mrs Britta Crawford	- Senior Education Officer
	Mr Jordan Nicholls	- Lead for Undergraduate Education
	Ms Beckie Smith	- Education Assistant
	Ms Jenny Soreskog-Turp	- Lead for Postgraduate Education
	Mr Kieran Thakrar	- Education Assistant
	Mrs Kirsty Williams	- Quality Assurance Manager
	Ms Lizzie Lockett	- CEO
	Dr Kate Richards	- Officer Team Observer

### Apologies for absence and welcome

1. Apologies were sent from Mandisa Greene and Nigel Gibbens.

### Declarations of interest

2. There were no declarations of interest.

## Minutes

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

## Matters arising

4. The Committee heard that the Veterinary Schools Council (VSC) had been asked to note that following a review by Education Committee (EC), the temporary amendments whereby IMR practices could be “working towards” PSS accreditation had now reverted back to pre-covid policy and practices would need to be PSS accredited. It was also noted that schools were still struggling with live access to abattoirs. The RCVS online assessment policy had been discussed with the AVS, clarifying that it did not insist that schools introduce proctoring. The synoptic exam review was on-going and the remaining actions from the minutes had been completed or were included in the agenda.

## Education Department update

5. The Director of Education, Dr Linda Prescott-Clements, gave an oral update on the work of the Education Department. The Committee were updated on the recent meeting between the PSRB's (Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies) and the Office for Students (OfS) regarding phase two of the consultation on their new standards. The Committee heard that the OfS would not generally investigate concerns if the professional regulator was already involved, although, if necessary, they would take the views of the regulator into account. The OfS were committed to working with PSRB's around any issues arising during the review of programmes.
6. The proposal for the RCVS to allow the Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI) to use the written part of the RCVS Statutory Membership Examination (SME) was progressing and there would be at least one VCI candidate this year.

## Primary Qualifications Sub-Committee (PQSC)

### Report of the sub-committee meetings held on the 14 and 27 January 2022

7. The reports of meetings held on 14 and 27 January 2022 were received.
8. Since the minutes of the previous PQSC meetings were still with the committee for approval, PQSC chair Dr Dyer gave Education Committee a verbal update on the discussions that had taken place.
9. The decision had been made to split the January PQSC meeting into two because the workload was too great to consider in one meeting.
10. The first meeting in January considered the annual monitoring reports from the UK Vet Schools as well as the reports received from schools in Australia and New Zealand. Reports were considered by the committee and where further clarifications were sought; these were being followed up directly with the schools.

11. The second PQSC meeting was arranged to consider the general business items separate from the annual monitoring reports.
12. PQSC were presented with the visitation reports from the Nottingham and Bristol visitations, for initial review, and both reports had been returned to the schools for the formal consultation period and University response, which would come back to PQSC in April so that the committee could make its recommendation on accreditation status.
13. Confidential file notes of the informal progress meetings between RCVS and Harper and Keele Vet School, and RCVS and Aberystwyth/RVC, were considered by PQSC and noted.
14. Minutes from the SME Board meetings in October and December were presented, and an update on the SME was to be presented later in the Education Committee agenda.
15. Finally, the frequency of PQSC meetings was looked at in relation to the workload that the committee now had. PQSC currently met four times a year to discuss business and make recommendations to Education Committee. With an increase in veterinary schools, both in the UK and overseas, the core business of PQSC had now reached a point where the numbers of papers for consideration was a challenge to fit into these four meetings. Therefore, to spread the workload more evenly throughout the year, PQSC agreed to increase the frequency from four to six meetings annually.

**Action: PQSC to move from four to six meeting per year.**

### **Conflict of interest changes**

16. The committee reviewed an updated version of the accreditation visit Conflict of Interest policy. As well as clarification of the policy, the committee were also asked to suggest an appropriate time frame between a potential visitor having an association with a Vet School and being a member of the visiting panel. The committee suggested and approved reducing the current period of 10 years to 5 years for those who have graduated from, or been employed full time by, the school being evaluated during the last 5 years; and to add a period of 3 years separation since a potential visitor was engaged as an external examiner by the vet school.
17. The committee also pointed out some corrections to be made including updating the name of the Education Committee, changing 'Head of Education' to 'Chair of Education', and reducing the term "chairman" to simply "chair".

**ACTION: Amend conflict of interests policy**

### **EAEVE Observation report**

18. Comments on the report are available in the confidential appendix

## Appeals Process

19. Following a review of appeal procedures across the College by the Legal Services team at the RCVS, some amends were proposed within the accreditation of veterinary programme appeal procedure.
20. The main amendment was to the membership of the panel which would consider any appeal, which had originally been the Examinations Appeal panel. Since it was felt that an Examinations Appeal panel may not necessarily have expertise or experience with university programme accreditation, it was agreed that a more subject specific panel should be created as needed, which would include a member appointed from the RCVS list of visitors.
21. Education Committee agreed to the proposed changes, and it was agreed to make the draft final.  
**Action: Update appeals procedure in accreditation documentation.**

## EMS

### Review of the temporary policy

22. As part of the on-going three-monthly reviews of the temporary EMS requirement, Education Committee was asked to consider EMS completion data submitted from schools at the end of January. It was noted that there had been no further changes to the policy when it was last considered at Education Committee in November 2021.
23. It was noted that following the previous reductions, the penultimate and final year students appeared to be on track to meet their clinical EMS requirements from the data returned, as well as those currently in Year 2 (Year 3 Cambridge) in meeting the pre-clinical requirement.
24. The completion data for those who had just started the programme in September 2021 varied, but this was more down to schools' individual timetabling, with some scheduled to start pre-clinical EMS earlier than others. Therefore, it was noted that this data would be reviewed again at the next meeting in May before considering whether any possible reductions would be needed.
25. Therefore, members were asked to consider whether a reduction of 3 weeks EMS to the requirement for Year 3 (Year 4 Cambridge) should be agreed. Whilst there was one opinion was that the requirements should remain unchanged, there was an argument put forward on behalf of the students, in that although restrictions had now been lifted there was still a backlog of placements that providers were working through for those in their later years which was influencing availability for those who had just started their clinical years. The completion rate was also lower than what would normally be expected by this time.
26. It was therefore agreed that the clinical EMS requirement for the cohort year of 2024 would be reduced by 3 weeks, to 23 weeks in total, considering the difficulty in securing placements since the beginning of term in September 2021.

**Action: RCVS to inform VSC of the decision and update EMS pages on the website**

### **Pre-clinical EMS intercalation rules**

27. Following the introduction of the temporary EMS policy due to the pandemic, rules around the requirements for intercalating students were also agreed upon. However, these rules have been based specifically on clinical EMS and the requirement to be registered as a veterinary student to be able to carry this out. There are currently no rules in place specifically for those who would be intercalating prior to their clinical years, which can create an anomaly when it comes to their pre-clinical EMS requirements. There are also currently no formal rules in place around students needing to repeat years or taking gap years or suspending their studies. Education Committee was therefore invited to consider additions to the rules around intercalation.
28. Whilst there was agreement that the rules presented in the paper seemed sensible, it was suggested that it would be best to check with the schools initially before putting any rules into place to ensure that it would match up with their internal policies. Therefore, it was agreed that VSC would be consulted before bringing the issue back to Education Committee at its next meeting in May.

**Action: RCVS to consult with VSC on intercalation rules**

### **EMS stakeholder event report and future planning**

29. On 22 November, the RCVS hosted a stakeholder event to consider the longer-term future implementation of EMS. During the event, workshops were held for stakeholders to discuss different possible options for potential ways forward for EMS, and new ideas for addressing the future challenges were invited as part of a 'blue sky' thinking session. Education Committee received a paper which contained a report of the day and summaries of each of the workshops and the discussions around them. The paper also presented a proposal for potential options to be included in a plan for a new, future EMS system, which Education Committee were invited to consider.
30. It was reported that the paper would be shared with VSC after the meeting, and any comments could be considered when returning to this agenda item in May.

**Action: RCVS to share paper with VSC**

31. Further reference to communications and logistics can be found in the confidential appendix.

### **CPD**

#### **Updates from the CPD Policy & Compliance subcommittee**

32. The committee received and noted the minutes from the last meeting of the CPD Policy and Compliance subcommittee. Ms Ford gave a brief overview of discussions at the meeting, which included 1CPD usage and CPD compliance. The results of the CPD audit for 2021 will be presented to the Education Committee at its next meeting in May.

**Action: Present the results of the CPD Audit at the next meeting**

### **Statutory Membership Exam (SME): Update on candidate numbers**

33. The exams manager reported that at present 54 candidates have been accepted onto the 2022 exam, but more are expected ahead of the deadline of 14 February. It was also reported that one candidate from the VCI will be sitting the written exam at present.
34. The changes to the English language requirements previously approved by the Committee have been implemented. From those which applied prior to this being changed, 12 candidates have chosen to defer their IELTS/OET.
35. It was reported that one refugee is expected to sit the 2022 exam although there are currently 14 refugees on the active list. All the refugees have taken up the offer of free memberships to a variety of veterinary organisations in the UK. The exams manager flagged that this may result in over ten refugees wishing to sit the 2023 exam which would exceed the RCVS' planned allowance.

**Action: exams manager to request additional funding for refugees in 2023 from Finance and Resources Committee**

### **Veterinary Graduate Development Programme (VetGDP)**

#### **Minutes from the VetGDP subcommittee held on 1 February 2022**

36. The secretary of the VetGDP subcommittee gave an overview of the discussions at the meeting which was noted by the Committee.

#### **VetGDP Adviser Training Report**

37. The committee received the results of the evaluations completed by all VetGDP Advisers at the end of the VetGDP on-line training. The results were extremely positive, and a majority found all areas of the training to be either 'very' or 'extremely useful'.
38. The training was rated positive consistently across all different groups. Female respondents and those working for a corporate practice were in general more positive about the training but there were no major differences in any of the areas.
39. Respondents who had previously received other formal training felt that the course had been as useful as those respondents who had previously not any received previous training in coaching or mentoring and there were no major differences between the two groups.
40. The results were particularly pleasing given the that the profession was given little notice to complete the training, in a climate of high stress due to covid and difficulties with a shortage of staff.

### **Summary report of the graduate and VetGDP Adviser surveys.**

41. The Committee were provided with a summary report of the graduate and VetGDP Adviser surveys. These surveys are particularly useful as they capture nearly 100% of graduates, as they are a pre-requisite to starting the VetGDP. This compares to a less than 10% response rate to graduate surveys completed in the past. The Committee understood that a fully redacted set of data had been sent to each school with their own data. The department was thanked for their foresight in collecting such useful data.

### **Review of subcommittees and working parties which report to Education Committee.**

42. The committee received and noted the terms of reference for all the committees that report to Education Committee. The committee approved them all but suggested to amend the wording to PQSC's terms of reference to include a reference to re-accreditation in the first paragraph (point 1) and update the membership of the specialist subcommittee to ensure 50% of the committee are made up from specialists.

**Action: Update ToR for PQSC and Specialist Subcommittee**

### **Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice (CertAVP) report from the meeting held on 1 February 2022**

43. The chair of the CertAVP subcommittee gave a report on the meeting which had happened the previous week. The Committee noted that Liverpool had been approved to assess the Poultry modules and the Veterinary Management and Leadership module and that one further candidate had been given approval to take their synoptic exam for the third time.

### **Advanced Practitioner Status**

#### **List of approved Advanced Practitioners**

44. The list of approved Advanced Practitioners was noted.

### **Advanced Practitioner (AP) Evaluation**

45. The committee was presented with the project plan. There was some discussion around ensuring that a broad range of veterinary professionals would be represented in the task and finish groups. With the proviso that Specialists and Fellows be asked to join the second group, the committee agreed to the project plan.

**ACTION: Findings of the task and finish group to be reported at September EC**

### **Specialist subcommittee**

46. The minutes from the Specialist Sub-Committee (SSC) held on 12 January 2022 were received and noted.
47. Education Committee approved the additions and re-additions to the List of Specialists, as recommended by SSC.



## Remuneration

48. At its meeting in January 2021, the SSC had asked Education Committee to consider the possibility of remuneration for committee members assessing Specialist applications. However, the discussion did not take place at the meeting in February 2021, and therefore the committee were asked if this could be discussed.
49. It was noted that the Advanced Practitioner Panel of Assessors were offered an honoraria for considering applications, and the VetGDP panel would also be set to receive honoraria for peer review of portfolios. Therefore, it was agreed that the SSC should also be able to receive an honorarium. It was clarified that this honorarium would be for applications from those who did not hold European Diplomas and would therefore be applying via the "full" application system whereby contributions, publications and CPD etc would need to be considered by the committee.
- Action: EC to recommend to FRC that honoraria for assessment for Specialist applications is introduced**

## Application system for European Specialists

50. Since the introduction of the new streamlined application system for European Specialists was introduced, it has become apparent that many RCVS Specialists' five-year accreditations are out of sync with their five-year accreditation with EBVS. Previously, it had been the responsibility of any RCVS Specialist to inform RCVS if their EBVS accreditation ended, and they would either need to re-apply to RCVS in full to continue being listed or lapse their status. RCVS had also asked any Specialists who were granted their RCVS five-year accreditation in the same year as their EBVS accreditation, proof of this before their accreditation was fully granted. However, the system is clunky and there are risks that a five-year RCVS accreditation could be granted based on an EBVS accreditation that is not then renewed part way through the RCVS period.
51. Education Committee was therefore asked a change to the application system could be introduced, where the immediate period of accreditation would depend on when the applicants next accreditation period with EBVS would be due, rather than given a blanket five-year accreditation. Then, once the application systems were lined up, each applicant would receive the full five-year accreditation, in line with the dates of the EBVS accreditation. New applicants would also be encouraged to apply immediately once they had received their latest EBVS accreditation.
52. Education Committee agreed to the proposal and confirmed that the process could be developed by the Education Department.

**Action: Education Department to implement updated application system for European Specialists**

## Risk Register

53. The risks discussed can be found in the confidential appendix.

### **Any other business**

54. The Committee were advised that the RCVS had been approached by a veterinary surgeon who qualified from a university in Canada asking to sit the SME as a route to being eligible to register and work as a vet in the UK. It was commented that this situation was atypical given the recognition agreement the RCVS has with the mainland US and Canadian vet schools. Veterinary surgeons who graduate from accredited schools in these countries are ordinarily eligible to register after passing the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE).
55. It was discussed that although an alternative route is available that should not prevent an overseas veterinarian from choosing the SME as their preferred route to registration. It was however agreed that if a candidate should fail the SME, they should not then be able to register by the alternative route.
56. It was also discussed that there appears to be a lack of uniformity in the choice of route to registration between different countries where Mutual Recognition Agreements exist. The Committee recommended that a process should be agreed to provide clarity and equality to all overseas veterinary surgeons wishing to sit the SME.

**ACTION: RCVS to produce a comprehensive process for route to registration via the SME  
for all overseas vets**

### **Date of Next Meeting**

10 May 2022

Britta Crawford

February 2022

[b.crawford@rcvs.org.uk](mailto:b.crawford@rcvs.org.uk)

Summary	
Meeting	Education Committee
Date	10 May 2022
Title	Temporary Covid policy around students visiting abattoirs
Summary	<p>One temporary policy change remaining following the relaxation of all restrictions surrounding the pandemic is the requirement regarding abattoir experience for veterinary students.</p> <p>Following conversations with both the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and Food Standards Scotland (FSS) regarding the removal of restrictions on abattoir access, as well as consulting with the veterinary schools on actions being taken to secure student placements, it is proposed that this temporary policy reverts back to its pre-pandemic requirement by the end of the year now that in-person abattoir experiences are again possible.</p> <p>At this stage, the new 2023 Accreditation Standards will come into effect, whereby students must gain in-person experience in <u>either</u> a red <u>or</u> white meat abattoir, instead of red <u>and</u> white meat, and it is believed that this will be more attainable.</p>
Decisions required	To approve the policy reverting back to be in line with accreditation standards by the end of 2022..
Attachments	None
Author	<p>Jordan Nicholls</p> <p>Lead for Undergraduate Education</p> <p>j.nicholls@rcvs.org.uk / 020 7202 0704</p>

Classifications		
Document	Classification <sup>1</sup>	Rationales <sup>2</sup>
Paper	Unclassified	N/A

**<sup>1</sup>Classifications explained**

Unclassified	Papers will be published on the internet and recipients may share them and discuss them freely with anyone. This may include papers marked 'Draft'.
Confidential	Temporarily available only to Council Members, non-Council members of the relevant committee, sub-committee, working party or Board and not for dissemination outside that group unless and until the relevant committee or Council has given approval for public discussion, consultation or publication.
Private	The paper includes personal data which should not be disclosed at any time or for any reason, unless the data subject has agreed otherwise. The Chair may, however, indicate after discussion that there are general issues which can be disclosed, for example in reports to committees and Council.

**<sup>2</sup>Classification rationales**

Confidential	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To allow the Committee or Council to come to a view itself, before presenting to and/or consulting with others</li> <li>2. To maintain the confidence of another organisation</li> <li>3. To protect commercially sensitive information</li> <li>4. To maintain public confidence in and/or uphold the reputation of the veterinary professions and/or the RCVS</li> </ol>
Private	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. To protect information which may contain personal data, special category data, and/or criminal offence data, as listed under the General Data Protection Regulation</li> </ol>

<b>Summary</b>	
Meeting	Education Committee
Date	10 May 2022
Title	EMS – Review of Temporary Policy
Summary	<p>As part of the on-going three-monthly reviews of the temporary EMS requirement in place due to the pandemic, Education Committee is asked to consider EMS completion data submitted from schools in January.</p> <p>At its last meeting, Education Committee agreed that the temporary requirement for the current 3<sup>rd</sup> years (class of 2024) should be reduced by 3 weeks, to a total of 23 weeks. A letter from the RCVS President was sent to all students to inform them of the outcome of the review.</p> <p>Education Committee is invited to consider the latest set of data and decide if any further changes to the temporary policy should be made at this time.</p>
Decisions required	To agree on any further changes to temporary EMS policy
Attachments	<p>Annex A – Summary of data completed on EMS completion rates as at May 2022</p> <p>Annex B - Summary of data completed on EMS completion rates as at February 2022</p>
Author	<p>Duncan Ash</p> <p>Senior Education Officer</p> <p><a href="mailto:d.ash@rcvs.org.uk">d.ash@rcvs.org.uk</a></p>

<b>Classifications</b>		
<b>Document</b>	<b>Classification<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Rationales<sup>2</sup></b>
Paper	<b>Unclassified</b>	n/a

## Review of EMS policy

### Background

1. A number of temporary amendments to Extra-Mural Studies (EMS) policy and support measures have been put in place to address the difficulties faced by students in achieving their full EMS requirement of 12 weeks Pre-clinical Animal Husbandry EMS (AHEMS) and 26 weeks Clinical EMS, caused by effects during the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. Restrictions are now no longer in place, but RCVS has committed to continue to carryout periodic reviews of this policy, until it becomes apparent that EMS completion is no longer being affected by knock on issues of the pandemic. The last review took place at the February meeting of Education Committee, and it was decided that a reduction of 3 weeks should be applied to the clinical EMS requirement for the class of 2024, and therefore their current requirement for this cohort is 23 weeks. This reduction was based on low completion rates across all schools following the start of term and Christmas period.
3. A letter from the RCVS President was sent to all students in February to update them on the reduction, and again reassure that the reviews would still be ongoing.
4. For this review in May, RCVS had again requested data from the EMS Coordinators at each of the vet schools, detailing the average number of weeks completed per year (mean, median and range), against the number of weeks that would normally have been completed by April in a typical year. A summary of the data collected can be seen at **Annex A**. However, at the time of writing, only 4 schools had returned data.
5. The data collected in February can be seen at **Annex B**.
6. For reference, the current requirement for all year groups is shown in Table 1:

**Table 1: EMS requirements in place as of May 2022:**

Student Cohort		AHEMS requirement (usually 12 weeks)	Clinical EMS requirement (Usually 26 weeks)
Year of programme starting in September 2021	Year of Graduation		
Year 1	2026	12 weeks	26 weeks
Year 2	2025	6 weeks with online top-up around personal learning objectives	26 weeks

<b>Year 3</b>	2024	6 weeks with online top-up around personal learning objectives	23 weeks
<b>Year 4</b>	2023	6 weeks with online top-up around personal learning objectives	13 weeks with online top-up around personal learning objectives
<b>Year 5</b>	2022	12 weeks	13 weeks with online top-up around personal learning objectives

### Options for review

#### Pre-clinical EMS

7. The review in February suggested that all schools were either well on track to, or had already met the reduced requirement in place for the 2<sup>nd</sup> years. Although less data has been submitted for this review, there is again nothing to suggest that there are should any concerns for this cohort in meeting their pre-clinical EMS requirement.
8. For the 1<sup>st</sup> years, the completion data submitted by the four schools looks to initially be low, essentially averaging at two weeks. However, Nottingham had also reported that this would be within the normal expected rate for their September cohort, and Glasgow had reported that they would normally be expecting students to have completed 2-4 weeks of pre-clinical EMS, so it is also within that range. Edinburgh had explained that due to the timing of the review, they would be unable to report completely up to date completion rates that take into account the Easter period, as the deadline for students to submit EMS documents is 6<sup>th</sup> May. Therefore, their data does not yet include all weeks that would have completed over the holiday period. The new term at Cambridge had also started on the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> April, and were therefore still processing EMS forms, so would also have a lot of weeks to add to student records further to the data supplied.
9. With only a few schools having returned up to date completion data for pre-clinical EMS for the class of 2026, and with them both seemingly being more or less on track, it is hard to gauge whether there are any wider issues with completion rates for this cohort. With students also still having over a year before they complete their pre-clinical year, it would be hard to find justification to consider any possible reductions to the requirement based on knock-on effects being caused by the pandemic at this stage.

## Clinical EMS

10. As with the last review in February, despite the low total of submitted data, the cohort year of 2023 appears to be on track to complete their reduced requirement, with no further concerns being reported by any of the schools at this stage.
11. The cohort year of 2022 appear to have either already completed the reduced requirement, or are on track based on the submitted data. Similarly, there was nothing in the data submitted for the last review in February which suggested that there were any concerns from the schools for this requirement being met by this cohort year.
12. Following the reduction of 3 weeks to the requirement for the cohort year of 2024, there has still been low completion rates reported by those submitting data. However, Glasgow and Nottingham both reported that although behind the normal rate expected to be completed by this stage of the year, this was give or take 3 weeks behind, which would be catered for by the reduction granted in February. However, the completion rates for this cohort should still be closely monitored going forward.
13. Education Committee is invited to consider the following two options and agree a way forward:

**A: No further amendments to be made at this time with a further review at the September meeting of Education Committee**

With no increasing concerns based on the data submitted, no further amendments should be made to the requirements at this time with a further review to take place in September as standard. The review can also consider if and how completion rates are increasing to make a judgement as to whether or not it is returning to a normal level.

**B: No further amendments to be made at this time with a further review at the November meeting of Education Committee**

As above, but allowing for more time to make a judgement with only the cohort years of 2024 and 2026 potentially being of concern. A later review would also take into account that students will either still be on holiday or just returning to their studies when Education Committee meet in September. Completion data for a review in September would likely be collected from mid to end of August which may not take into account all planned summer placements. The timing of this review in May might also be a reason for the low submission rate from the schools. Again, as with option A, a review can also take into account if completion rates are starting to return to normal levels following restrictions due to the pandemic being ended.

14. Education Committee is invited to consider the options and agree a way forward.



## Annex A

## Summary of data collected on EMS completion rates – May 2022

## The median of completed weeks

	Graduating Year				
	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Bristol					
Cambridge	4	6	4	12	16
Edinburgh	1	6	1	7	12.2
Glasgow	2	11	4	12	17
Liverpool					
Nottingham (September)	2	3.5	2	7	Completed
Nottingham (April)	0	6	3	n/a	n/a
RVC					
Surrey					

## The mean of completed weeks

	Graduating Year				
	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Bristol					
Cambridge	4	6.24	4.24	11.02	16.47
Edinburgh	1	6	1.5	7.5	13.1
Glasgow	2	10.2	5.05	12.6	17.5
Liverpool					
Nottingham (September)	2	3	3	7	Completed
Nottingham (April)	0	3	3	n/a	n/a
RVC					
Surrey					

## The range of completed weeks

	Graduating Year				
	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Bristol					
Cambridge	0-8	0-14	0-12	0-19	Not available
Edinburgh	0-4	3-14	0-9	1-23.5	3-37.5
Glasgow	0-4	0-12	0-19.6	2-26	4-26
Liverpool					
Nottingham					
RVC					
Surrey					

The Nottingham April cohort for class of 2026 have just begun their programme, so would not have expected to have completed any EMS at this stage. The numbers differ between their September and April cohorts for class of 2025 as the April cohort has just completed their “long” holiday period.

As at 26/4/22, no data supplied from Bristol, Liverpool, RVC and Surrey.

## Annex B

## Summary of data collected on EMS completion rates – February 2022

## The median of completed weeks

	Graduating Year				
	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Bristol					
Cambridge	4	5	9	12	12
Edinburgh	0	5	0	7	11
Glasgow	0	10	4	11	16
Liverpool	3	6	3	7	12
Nottingham					
RVC	2	4	5	6	13
Surrey	1	6	3	8	14

## The mean of completed weeks

	Graduating Year				
	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Bristol					
Cambridge	3.77	5.75	9.82	12.32	12.7
Edinburgh	0.6	5.8	1.3	6.96	11.9
Glasgow	0.5	9	4.7	1.3	6.96
Liverpool	2.94	5.63	3.5	7.1	12.2
Nottingham					
RVC	3.2	4.5	4.7	4.5	12.9
Surrey	1	6.22	3.24	7.8	12.59

## The range of completed weeks

	Graduating Year				
	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Bristol					
Cambridge					
Edinburgh	0-2	3-14	1-8	1-23.5	3.37.5
Glasgow	0-3	0-12	0-19	2-26	4-26
Liverpool	1-6	1-12	0.2-12	0.2-18	1-25
Nottingham					
RVC	1-6	1-12	2-7	1-12	2-15
Surrey					

The data from RVC for cohort year of 2024 is based on expected completion rate due to confirmed bookings as clinical EMS does not begin until Easter.

No data supplied from Bristol or Nottingham, as at 31/1/22.

(No range data supplied from Surrey or Cambridge, as at 31/1/22)

## Summary

Meeting	Education Committee
Date	10 May 2022
Title	RCVS Accreditation classifications for veterinary degree programmes
Summary	<p>Following revisions made by both the Accreditation Review Working Party (ARWP) and Primary Qualifications Sub-Committee (PQSC) aimed to improve clarity, proposed amendments to two of the RCVS accreditation classifications are presented below. The current wording is also presented for comparison.</p> <p>Also considered by PQSC was the period from when accreditation applies, so that this can be specified with the accreditation classifications. It was agreed that when the new processes are implemented in 2023, accreditation should run from the date of decision by Education Committee, rather than the date of the accreditation visit.</p> <p>Education Committee is invited to discuss and agree with the recommendations from ARWP and PQSC.</p>
Decisions required	<p>To agree on wording of classifications.</p> <p>To agree on when the point of accreditation runs from.</p>
Attachments	New RCVS accreditation classifications
Author	<p>Jordan Nicholls Lead for Undergraduate Education <a href="mailto:j.nicholls@rcvs.org.uk">j.nicholls@rcvs.org.uk</a> / 020 7202 0704</p>

## Classifications

Document	Classification <sup>1</sup>	Rationales <sup>2</sup>
Paper	Unclassified	N/A

## **<sup>1</sup>Classifications explained**

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Private	The paper includes personal data which should not be disclosed at any time or for any reason, unless the data subject has agreed otherwise. The Chair may, however, indicate after discussion that there are general issues which can be disclosed, for example in reports to committees and Council.

## **<sup>2</sup>Classification rationales**

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Private	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>5. To protect information which may contain personal data, special category data, and/or criminal offence data, as listed under the General Data Protection Regulation</li></ol>

## Suggested amendments made by the ARWP and PQSC

- **Accreditation for a shorter period**

Accreditation for a shorter period of fewer than the usual 7 years may be granted where there are either (a) one or more standards not being met, and/or (b) a series of standards being partially met which, taken together, could have a significant impact on students' education. Crucially these deficiencies are deemed not [immediately] seriously detrimental to student education and to be rectifiable within a shorter period of accreditation. The accreditation period will be dependent on which standards are not met or only partially met, the impact these have on student education and the time frame required for the issues to be addressed.

When accreditation for a shorter period is granted, the exact period of time will be specified and rationale for the decision conveyed to the veterinary school. Progress will be monitored through periodic reports and an accreditation event at the end of the specified period.

- **Conditional accreditation**

This category applies where the RCVS considers the levels of unmet standards are seriously impactful on student education and correction of these inadequacies is urgently required. The unmet standards must be rectified within a specified period, with the priorities for correction of the deficiencies, the time frame required and the rationale for the decision conveyed to the veterinary school. Progress will be monitored through periodic reports and an accreditation event at the end of the specified period. Conditional accreditation is, in effect, a final warning to a school that if urgent action is not taken RCVS will move to terminal accreditation.

## Current accreditation classification wording

- **Accreditation for a shorter period** if significant deficiencies are identified: accreditation will be subject to the deficiencies being addressed within a specified period and subject to satisfactory periodic reports. The RCVS will normally undertake a re-visit before the accreditation period expires to monitor progress in addressing any identified concerns. This may be a full re-visit covering all the standards (normally held over one week) or a more focussed re-visit that concentrates on progress with addressing specific deficiencies (which would normally be held over one or two days). Consideration of a shorter period of accreditation subject to conditions will apply where there are either a) one or more major deficiencies, or b) a series of lesser deficiencies which, taken together, could have a significant impact on students' education, but which are deemed to be rectifiable within a given period of time.
- **Accreditation may be denied.** This category applies where the RCVS considers that the deficiencies are so serious that they are unlikely to be rectifiable within a reasonable period of time. It is, in effect, a final warning to a school that if urgent action is not taken RCVS will move to terminal accreditation.

Summary	
Meeting	Education Committee
Date	10 May 2022
Title	Veterinary Surgeons CPD Audit 2021
Summary	This paper provides the analysis of the 2021 audit of CPD records of veterinary surgeons.
Decisions required	None
Attachments	Annex A – CPD Audit Data
Author	Jenny Soreskog-Turp Lead for Postgraduate Education <a href="mailto:j.soreskjog-turp@rcvs.org.uk">j.soreskjog-turp@rcvs.org.uk</a> / 020 7202 0701

Classifications		
Document	Classification <sup>1</sup>	Rationales <sup>2</sup>
Paper	Unclassified	
Annex A	Unclassified	



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**<sup>2</sup>Classification rationales**

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## Background

1. The CPD requirement for veterinary surgeons is 35 hours per calendar year but due to Covid-19 it was reduced to 26 hours for 2020.
2. The aim of the audit is to enable the College to evaluate compliance with the requirement, raising awareness of the obligations set out in the Code of Professional Conduct and providing a picture of the average uptake across the profession.
3. Due to Covid-19 the CPD audit was cancelled in 2020 and only cases of non-compliance were followed up.

## Procedure

4. The audit included the following four groups of vets:
  - a) **Group 1.** A sample of 10% of non 1CPD users
  - b) **Group 2.** A sample of 10% of 1CPD users that had not updated records to meet the requirement
  - c) **Group 3.** VS who were non-compliant in the previous audit
  - d) **Group 4** VS who, despite reminders, failed to respond to the request to submit their CPD records in the previous audit.
  - e) **Group 5** – VS who have not responded to any communication from their PDP Dean
  - f) **Group 6** VS who confirmed that they were not compliant with the CPD requirement at the annual renewal.
5. Veterinary surgeons were asked for their CPD records for 2020 either by confirming that were using 1CPD or send a scanned copy of their CPD records.

## Outcomes of the audit

6. Please see Annex A for a full report of the results.
7. Responses were received from 686 veterinary surgeons (88 %):
  - a. 446 vets whose records show that they are compliant with the CPD requirement (65% of respondents).
  - b. 240 vets whose records show that they are not currently compliant with the CPD requirement (35%).
8. 91 vets have not responded to either the initial request for their records or to the subsequent reminders.
9. 75% of respondents are using 1CPD, 16% other formats of CPD Records and 9% provided no records at all.

10. The breakdown of CPD hours by age groups shows that compliance was consistent among most age groups, just over 60% compliance but slightly lower in the youngest and oldest age groups.
11. The breakdown of CPD hours by the number of years on the register show that compliance is highest in the group that have been on the register for more than 50 years (although this was a smaller group) and lowest in the groups that had been 1-6 years and 40-49 years on the register.

### **1CPD Usage**

12. 74% of 1CPD users were compliant with the requirement compared to 58% of users who are recording their CPD in other formats.
13. 33 vets in group 1 started using 1CPD after being included in the audit.

### **Non-compliance**

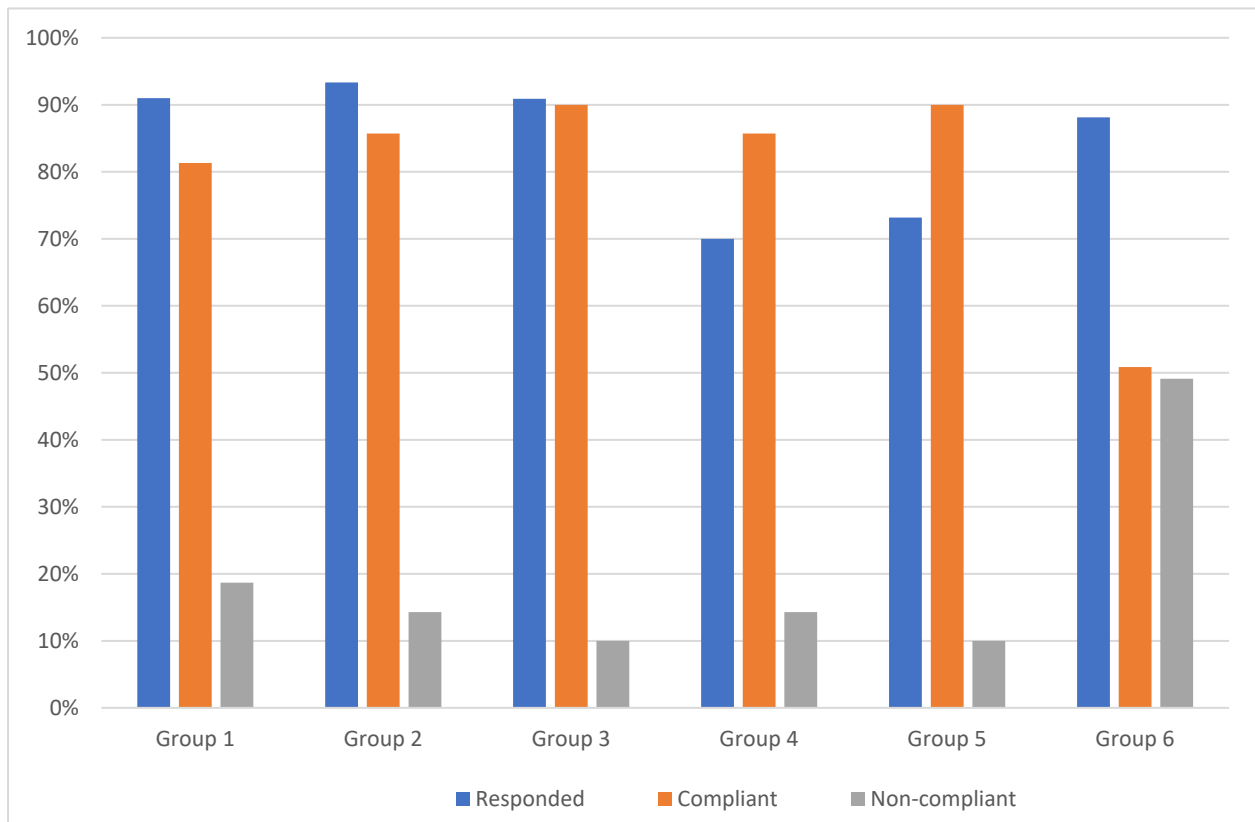
14. 240 vets were not compliant with CPD requirement, 3 % did not give any reason for being non-compliant. The main reasons for non-compliance were (the numbers in brackets are the percentage from the 2019 audit)
  - a. Lost/No Records 43 % (9%)
  - b. Time/opportunity 15 % (8%)
  - c. Illness 13% (9%)
  - d. Still doing PDP 10% (2%)
  - e. Will send records 7% (4%)
  - f. Family Commitment 6 % (8%)
  - g. Parental leave 3% (14%)
  - h. Off the register/NP 3 % (6%)
15. This is the first year since starting the CPD audit that parental leave has not been the top reason for non-compliance which may be due to the new annual CPD requirement which allows vets to apply to pause their CPD for up to 6 months.
16. Any vet that did not reach the CPD requirement will be included in next year's audit. Education Committee has previously decided that any vets that has been included in three audits but are still non-compliant or have not responded to any requests should be referred to the CPD Policy and Compliance sub-committee. 16 vets were going to be referred but some of which have since changed to NP so 9 vets will now be referred to the committee from this year's audit.

### **Next Steps**

17. Education Committee is invited to discuss the results of the 2021 audit. This year's audit will take place in September and will be the last one checking compliance since 1CPD is now mandatory to use.

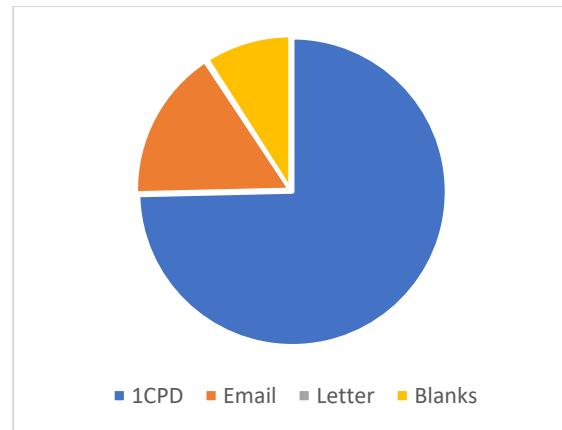
## Annex A

	Included in sample	Responded		Compliant		Non-compliant (NC)	
Group 1 - Non 1CPD Users	100	91	91%	74	81%	17	19%
Group 2 NC 1CPD Users	150	140	93%	120	86%	20	14%
Group 3 - NC Previous	11	10	91%	9	90%	1	10%
Group 4 - NR	20	14	70%	12	86%	2	14%
Group 5 - PDP	41	30	73%	27	90%	3	10%
Group 6 - NC at AR	455	401	88%	204	51%	197	49%
<b>Total 2021</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>35%</b>
Total 2019	1074	1010	94%	820	81%	190	19%
Total 2018	973	891	92%	609	68%	282	32%
Total 2017	1011	862	85%	601	70%	259	30%
Total 2016	1396	1210	87%	899	74%	311	26%
Total 2015	931	711	76%	566	80%	145	21%
Total 2014	4885	3981	81%	3264	82%	717	18%



## Returned records

1CPD	512	75%
Email	110	16%
Letter	2	0%
Blanks	62	9%



## 1CPD usage Per group

	Total	1CPD		1CPD Compliant	
Group 1 - Non 1CPD Users	91	33	36%	32	97%
Group 2 - NC 1CPD Users	140	128	91%	113	88%
Group 3 - NC Previous	10	10	100%	9	90%
Group 4 - NR	14	12	86%	12	100%
Group 5 - PDP	30	29	97%	26	90%
Group 6 - NC at AR	401	300	75%	189	63%

Age			
	All	C	NC
26-30	190	115	75
		61%	39%
31-40	188	126	62
		67%	33%
41-50	113	75	38
		66%	34%
51-60	108	76	32
		70%	30%
61-70	64	39	25
		61%	39%
71-86	23	15	8
		65%	35%

Years on  
register

	All	C	NC
1-6	304	185	119
		61%	39%
7-12	88	63	25
		72%	28%
13-19	74	52	22
		70%	30%
20-29	76	45	31
		59%	41%
30-39	87	64	23
		74%	26%
40-49	42	25	17
		60%	40%
50 +	15	12	3
		80%	20%

Non-compliant responders included in  
number of audits

1	226	94%
2	6	2%
3	7	3%
4	2	1%

Non-Respondent included in number of  
audits

1	79	87%
2	5	5%
3	2	2%
4	5	5%

## Summary

Meeting	Education Committee
Date	10 May 2022
Title	Specialist Subcommittee – Adding a new designation
Summary	An application for Specialist status has been received for a new designation in Veterinary Pain Medicine (Small Animal). All new designations require approval from Education Committee.
Decisions required	To consider new designation
Attachments	None
Author	Duncan Ash Senior Education Officer d.ash@rcvs.org.uk / 020 7202 0703

## Classifications

Document	Classification <sup>1</sup>	Rationales <sup>2</sup>
Paper	Unclassified	n/a

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## **Specialist Sub-Committee – adding a new designation**

### **Background**

1. The Specialist Sub-Committee (SSC) have received an application for Specialist status in a new designation for “Veterinary Pain Medicine (Small Animal)”. As a new designation, this would need to be approved by Education Committee before the application can be accepted.
2. The application has been initially considered by SSC, however there would be further information required to be submitted from the applicant before any final decision on the application can be reached. Therefore, if agreed to, the designation would be approved in principle, until the applicant has satisfied the committee that the application fully meets the criteria.
3. There is already an existing Specialist designation in Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia, and SSC did express some concerns in creating a new designation for Veterinary Pain Medicine as it was felt that it would be very similar to the existing anaesthesia designation. The Veterinary Pain Medicine designation would also not be aligned with any European Specialist titles.
4. The applicant is currently already listed as an RCVS Specialist in Animal Welfare Ethics and Law, and therefore if ultimately approved, would change designation as dual listings are no longer allowed for within the criteria.

### **Decision required**

5. Education Committee is invited to consider approving Veterinary Pain Medicine (Small Animal) as a new designation for Specialist status, in principle.