

Registration Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 29 April at 10:00 am to be held remotely via Microsoft Teams

Agenda Item	Classification	Rationale
1. Apologies for absence	Oral report Unclassified	n/a
2. Declarations of interest	Oral report Unclassified	n/a
3. Previous ad-hoc meeting minutes		
3a. 19 December 2024	Confidential	1,2,3,4
3b. 6 February 2025	Confidential	1,2,3,4
4. Matters arising	Oral report	
Matters for decision		
5. Temporary registration application	Confidential/Private	1,2,4,5
6. Changes to temporary registration forms and guidance	Confidential	1
Matters for note		
7. Historic temporary registration information	Oral report	
8. Registration statistics report	Unclassified	n/a
9. Registration Appeal Rules	Oral report	
10. Change of name processes	Confidential	1
11. Any other business (AOB)	Oral report	
12. Date of the next formal meeting: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 (remote)	Oral report Unclassified	n/a

Registration Committee – Terms of Reference

1. The Committee shall comprise the President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer of the College, together with two veterinary members of Council, a veterinary nurse member to be appointed by Veterinary Nurse Council (VNC), and a lay member of Council or VNC. The Committee shall be chaired by one of the Officers of the College, who will chair for a three-year term. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Registrar, and Director of Operations shall attend and participate in the meeting but shall be non-voting members.
2. The Committee shall be responsible for activities relating to the registration of veterinary and veterinary nurse members of the College (and, in due course, other Associate members of the College), and will provide and make recommendations to Council and/or VNC on matters relating to registration as appropriate.
3. Responsibilities will include but are not limited to:
 - a) Reviewing and monitoring the implementation of the provisions of the Veterinary Surgeons Act (VSA) 1966 related to the registration of veterinary surgeons; (in conjunction with the Education Committee as appropriate);
 - b) Reviewing and monitoring the implementation of the provisions of the Veterinary Nurse Registration Rules related to the registration of veterinary nurses; (in conjunction with VNC);
 - c) Reviewing and monitoring the policies and procedures relating to registration and publication of the Register;
 - d) Advising in relation to the creation of new categories of Associate members of the RCVS;
 - e) Keeping under review data relating to Find-A-Vet;
 - f) Monitoring registration activities (including trends in Registration for both veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses);
 - g) Monitoring reports from relevant Appeal panels, ie
 - i. The Examination Appeals Committee;
 - h) Considering applications for Temporary Registration in accordance with the VSA 1966; and,
 - i) Reporting to Council on a regular basis summarising the work that comes under its purview (usually via the minutes of its meetings).

Summary

Meeting	Registration Committee
Date	29 April 2025
Title	Registration statistics report
Summary	An overview of key statistics with commentary on trends or points of interest.
Decisions required	No decisions required
Attachments	Annex A - Registration Committee data
Author	Robert Hewes Head of Customer Service r.hewes@rcvs.org.uk 020 7050 1238

Classifications

Document	Classification ¹	Rationales ²
Paper	Unclassified	n/a
Annex A	Unclassified	n/a

Background

1. The purpose of this regular report is to provide a current picture of the trends across registration data for vets, vet nurses and practice premises, in order to provide the Committee with insight for any future actions, considerations, or changes.
2. Based on feedback, the data is mainly presented by quarter. Graphs have been provided, where possible, however some data sets are too wide ranging, meaning a graph does not represent a good visual representation of the information. A table of figures have been provided for every data set commented on.
3. At the last meeting in October 2024, the period under review included up to Q3 2024. As the Committee meetings have moved to twice a year from 2024, commentary has in the main, been provided on the last two quarters (Q4 2024 & Q1 2025) compared to the respective quarters of the previous year.

Current picture and commentary

4. Please view attached annex A for the Registration data

Vet Registrations

5. The first theme to highlight is that veterinary surgeon registrations for UK-practising overseas nationals continues to decrease in the quarters being reviewed. There were sixty-one less Registrations in Q4 2024 compared to Q4 2023. The same applies in Q1 2025 there were sixty-three less registrations compared to Q1 2024. We believe this is largely because of visa restrictions and minimum salary requirement for overseas vets increasing from £26,000, to £38,700 per annum in 2024. This has had an impact on newly graduated overseas nationals applying.
6. There was an increase in UK graduate registrations in Q4 2024, compared to the same period in 2023. An overall increase of 132, which is mainly attributed to a second Nottingham graduate cohort passing in November and becoming Registration ready. Overall, UK graduate registrations increased in 2024, by 181 compared to 2023, reflecting a 16% increase.
7. Continuing with veterinary surgeon registrations, detailed in the annex is a table and graph reflecting each year over the last five calendar years. This reflects an overall increase in veterinary surgeon registrations year on year since 2021.

Vet & Practice Premises renewal update

8. In January 2025 we contacted veterinary surgeons registered as Republic of Ireland (ROI) and Non-Practising 70+ (NP70+) to ask them to confirm their details to remain on the register. These vets do not pay a fee, and this exercise last took place in August 2023. 1436 emails and letters were sent to NP70+ and 316 to ROI vets to ensure accurate data is being held on the register. The process was concluded in March, with 215 vets removed from NP70+ category and 61 vets removed from ROI. A table has been provided with a breakdown of the reasons for removal. This exercise will be conducted with the annual renewal for vets moving forward.
9. The veterinary surgeon renewal deadline was 1 April 2025 and removals from the register will be completed on 1st June. There were 37,216 vets eligible for renewal when the renewal notices were issued in early March. At the time of drafting this report (16/04/25) 32,090 vets have paid, 87% completion, compared to 84% on the same date in 2024. A reminder email has been sent on 11/04/25. A higher fee of £36 is added from 1st May if payment has not been received. I will provide an updated figure on the day of the Registration Committee meeting.
10. The practice premises renewal (RVPP) deadline was 1 April 2025. There are 2138 practices eligible (not including PSS) for renewal and of those, there were 458 outstanding on 09/04/25, a reminder letter was sent to Practices on 11/04/25. For comparison, there were 445 practices with an outstanding fee on 16/04/24 when a reminder was sent. Removals will be completed in the first week of May for those practices that have failed to make payment and confirm their renewal.

Vet Nurse Registrations

11. Vet nurse UK graduate registrations increased in Q4 2024 compared to Q4 2023, by sixty-eight. The increase was mainly in diploma qualified vet nurses and there is no obvious reason for the increase. From observation there is more flexibility with exam dates through the diploma route, and it may be that an extra exam sitting took place in Q4 2024 which may account for the increase. There was a small decrease of thirteen when comparing Q1 2025 to Q1 2024.
12. Vet nurse overseas registrations have decreased by seven when comparing Q4 2024 to Q4 2023 and decreased by sixteen in Q1 2025 compared to Q1 2024. This is largely due to visa restrictions and changes made such as the theory exam introduced in 2024. This means that people who passed the OSCE (which was all they needed to do previously) being delayed from registering because they are required to sit the theory exam. Both examinations are available three times a year. There would have been less of an effect in the early part of 2024 because applicants who applied to have their qualification assessed for suitability to join the register before 1 November 2023 were exempt from the theory examination, therefore they only needed to

complete the OSCE. We publicised this, which may have caused a rise in applications in 2023, and this would have resulted in more people sitting the OSCE in the Q4 2023 and Q1 2024. So, in some ways the figures from these periods may have been inflated due to applicants submitting the application earlier than they may have because they wanted to avoid the additional examination.

13. Continuing with vet nurse registrations, detailed in the annex is a table and graph reflecting each year over the last five calendar years. This reflects an overall increase of vet nurse registrations year on year since 2021.

Vet Nurse renewal

14. The vet nurse renewal was concluded in January 2025. There were 24,742 nurses eligible for renewal, of those 335 were removed for non-payment, 1.3%. This figure reflects a reduction of vet nurses being removed from the register compared to January 2024, when 424 were removed out of 23,397 eligible for renewal, 1.8%.

Vet Register movements

15. These statistics show each category of registration monthly. The data is taken on the 1st of each month, and these tables reflect the movements up to 1 April 2025 and the movements in 2024. The main purpose of providing the information in this report is to show the average increase of vets registered as UK Practising and overall growth across vets registered.

Vet Nurse movements

16. These statistics show each category of registration monthly. The data is taken on the 1st of each month, and these tables reflect the movements up to 1 April 2025 and the movements in 2024. The main purpose of providing the information in this report is to show the average increase of UK qualified vet nurses registered.

Vet Age and Gender data

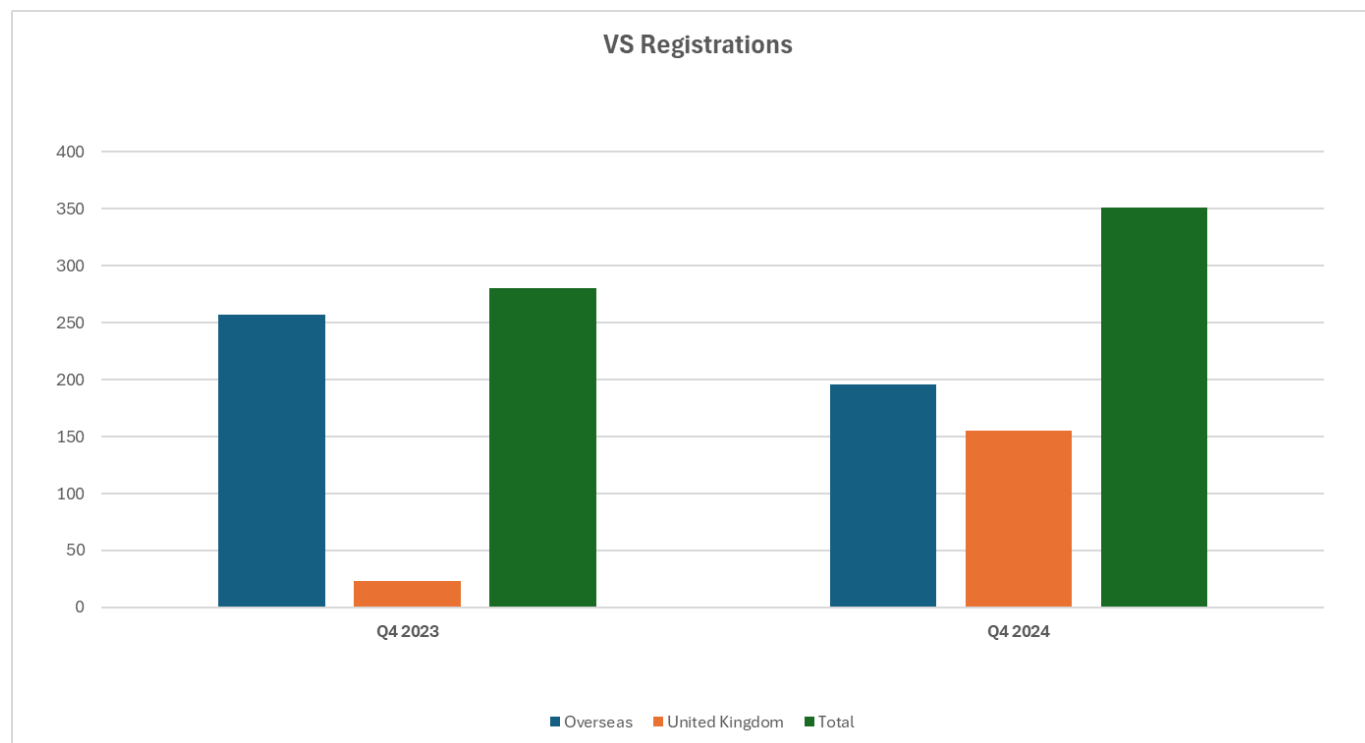
17. Information was presented at the previous Committee meeting in October 2024. A few queries were raised by the Committee regarding the data provided, below.

1. Regarding vet age and gender data, it would be useful to know the median age by gender and the distribution of years spent on and off the Register. This information could give the Committee more insight into the workforce shortage.
 2. The age ranges in the visual graph depicting the age profile of vets by gender, should be reviewed, as the twenty-five and under range did not reflect the common age at which people tended to graduate, and this seemed to skew the shape of the graph at the start.
18. Due to some restrictions with the current CRM, the more detailed information requested is not currently available to present. With the introduction of a new CRM later this year, we believe more insightful data and packages can be explored and we can look to revisit this request at future committees.

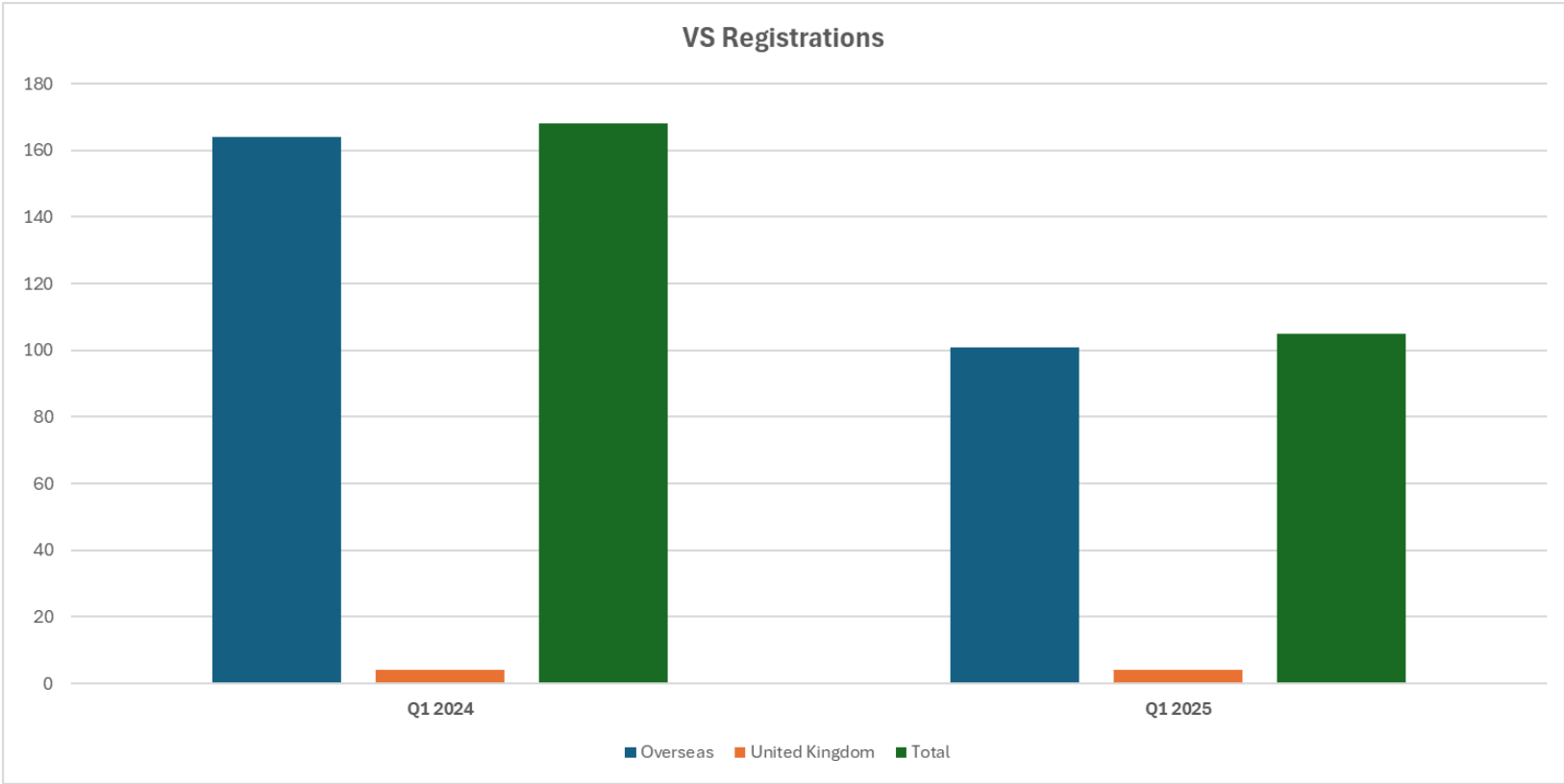
Annex A – Registration Committee data

VS Registrations

	Q4 2023	Q4 2024
Overseas	257	196
United Kingdom	23	155
Total	280	351

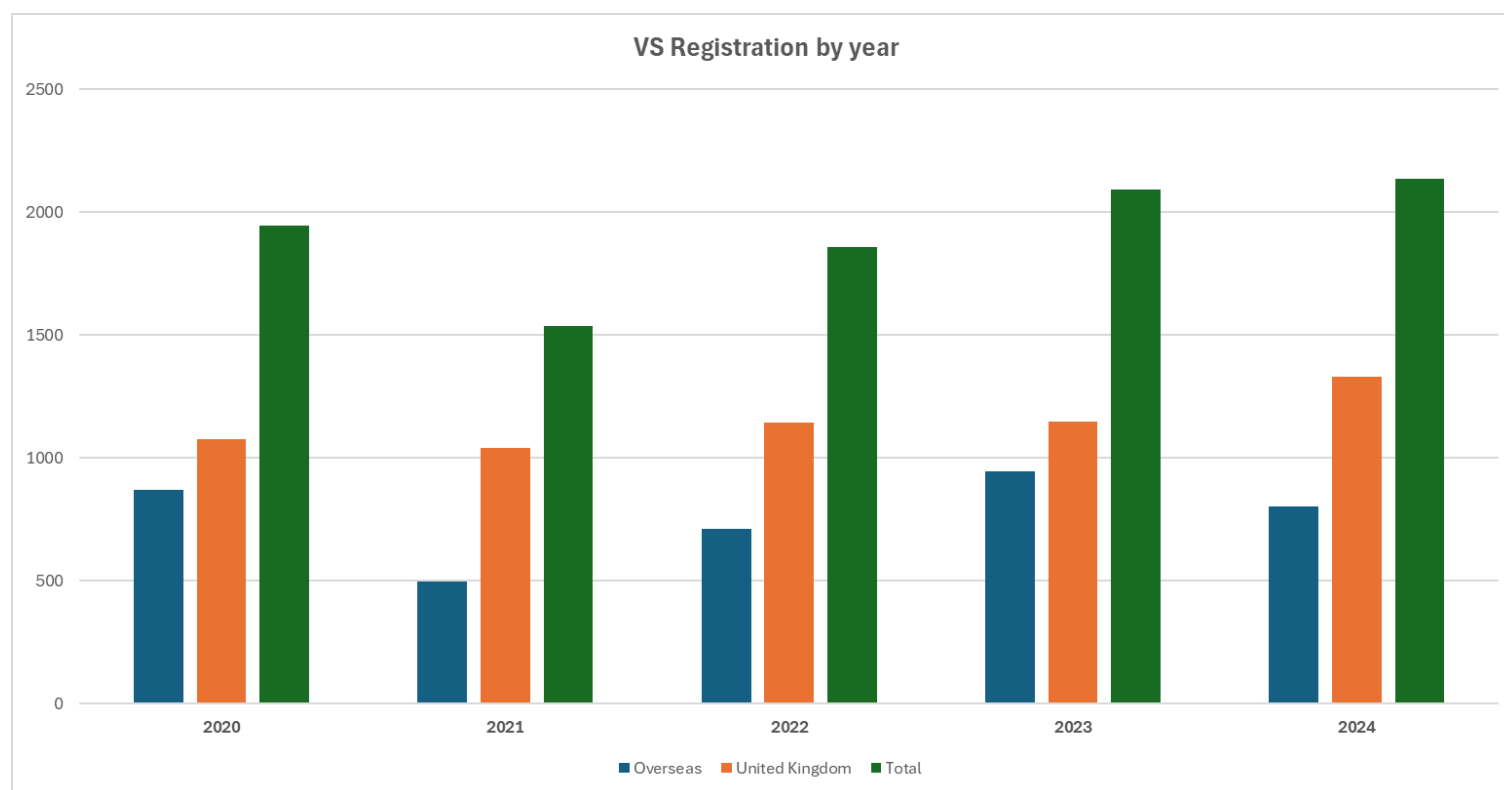


	Q1 2024	Q1 2025
Overseas	164	101
United Kingdom	4	4
Total	168	105



VS Registration by year

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Overseas	871	499	713	946	805
United Kingdom	1076	1040	1145	1149	1330
Total	1947	1539	1858	2095	2135

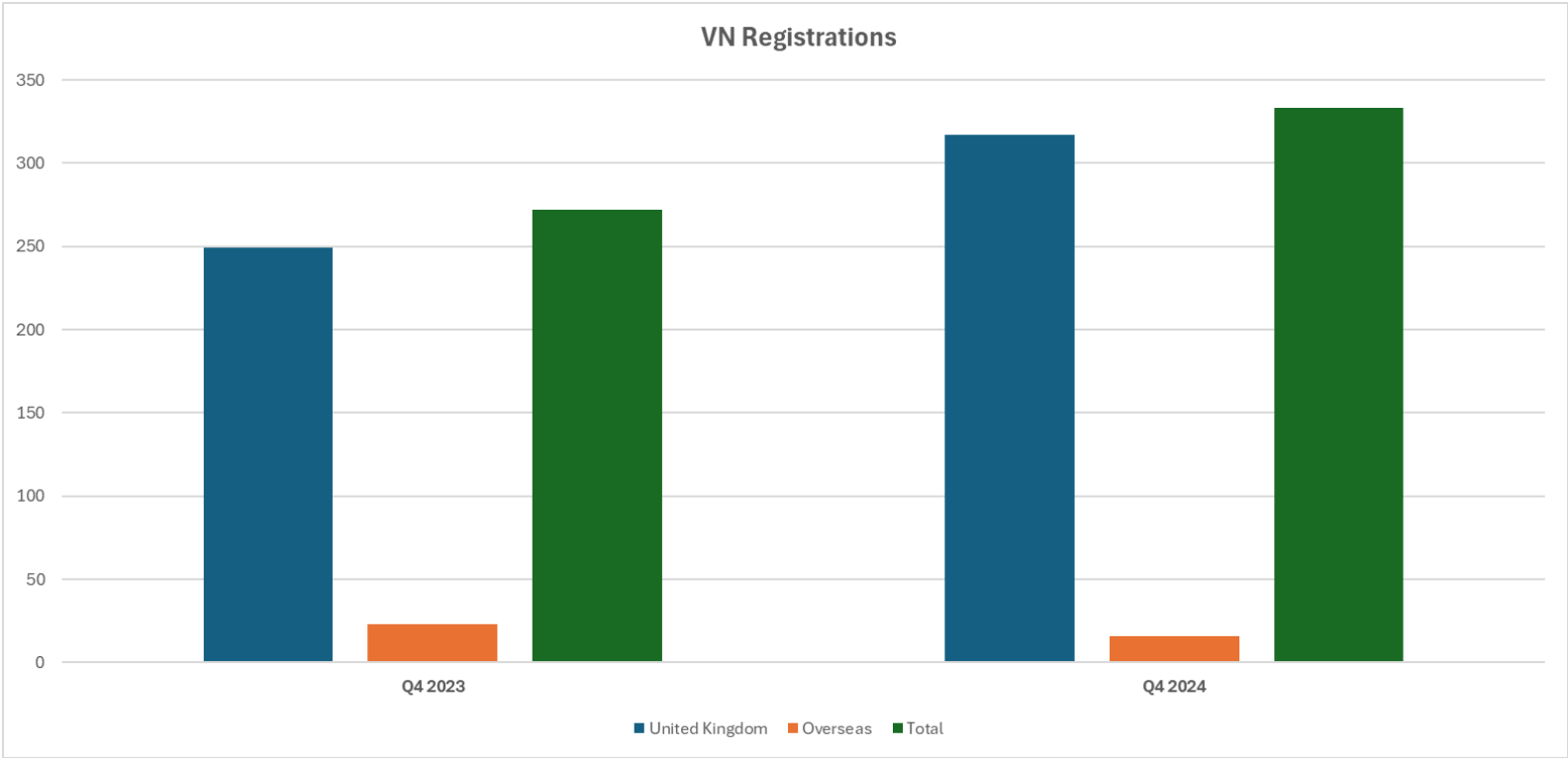


NP70+ & ROI Removals/Change of Category – January 9th – March 19th 2025

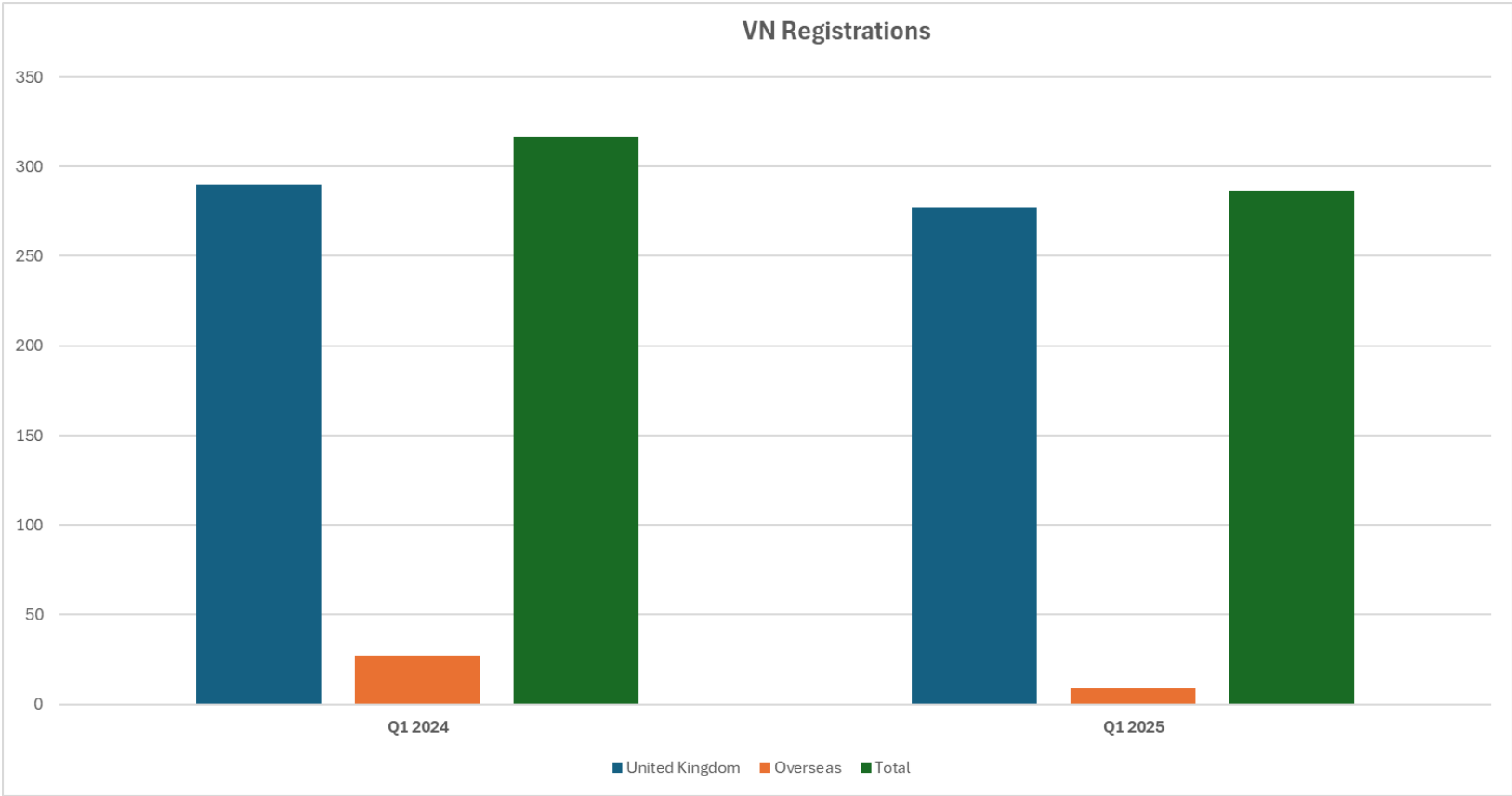
	Voluntary	Death	Change of Category	Non-Compliance	Total
NP70+	17	28	2	168	215
ROI	5	1	0	55	61

VN Registrations

	Q4 2023	Q4 2024
United Kingdom	249	317
Overseas	23	16
Total	272	333

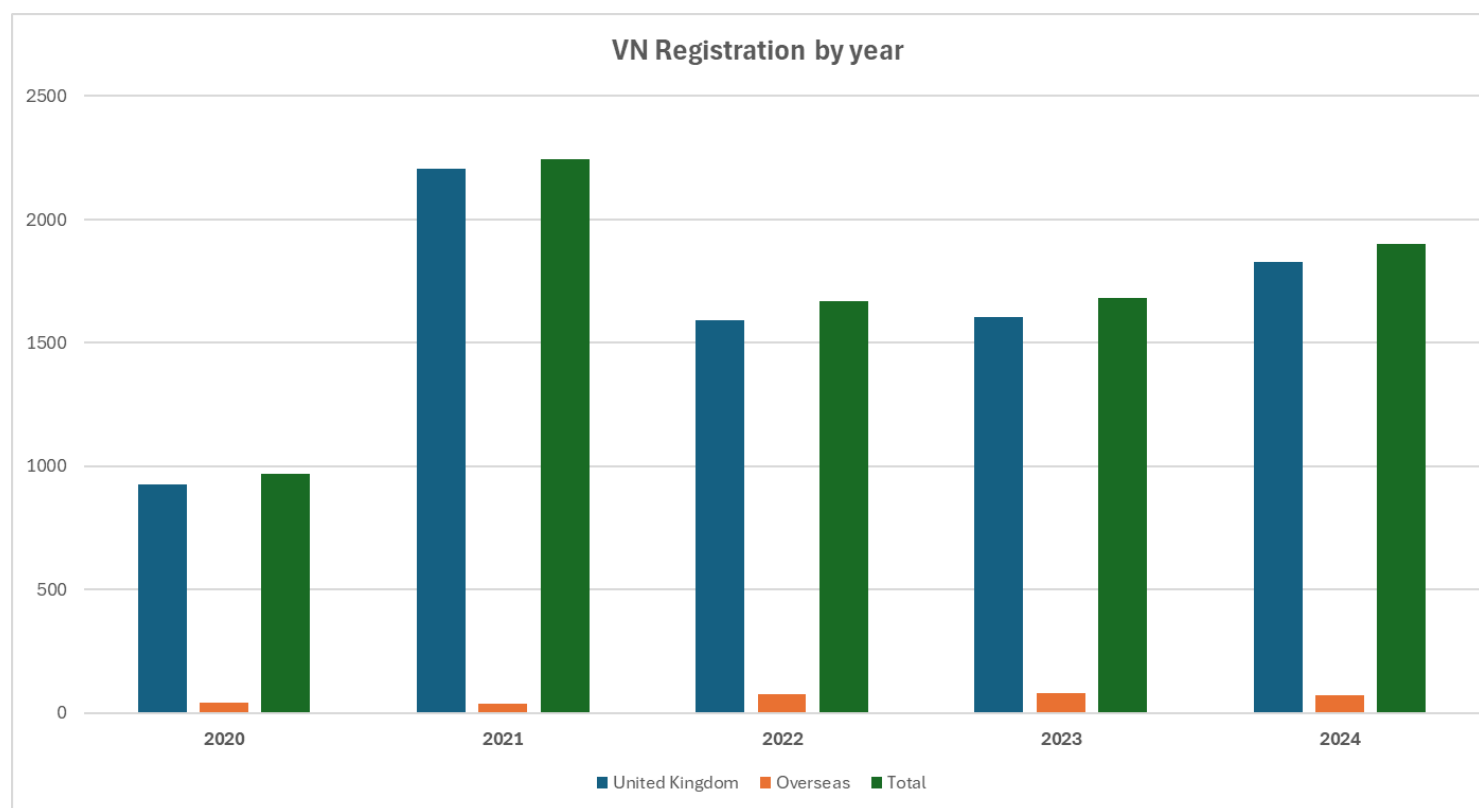


	Q1 2024	Q1 2025
United Kingdom	290	277
Overseas	27	9
Total	317	286



VN Registration by year

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
United Kingdom	928	2206	1592	1603	1828
Overseas	41	38	77	81	71
Total	969	2244	1669	1684	1899



Vet Registration movements

VS - Movements 2024	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Yearly Increase
VS - UK Practising	30155	30220	30279	30152	29811	29814	30375	30750	30825	30883	31017	31060	31224	3.40%
VS - Non Practising	2340	2331	2338	2333	2446	2441	2377	2370	2372	2367	2354	2347	2349	
VS - Non Practising 70+	1393	1389	1388	1396	1490	1489	1487	1484	1480	1479	1475	1471	1470	
VS - Practising outside the UK	3499	3503	3522	3521	3677	3675	3571	3599	3616	3650	3669	3685	3706	
VS - Republic of Ireland	326	326	326	326	327	327	327	327	327	327	326	326	326	
Total	37713	37769	37853	37728	37751	37746	38137	38530	38620	38706	38841	38889	39075	3.60%

VS movements 2025	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25
VS - UK Practising	31224	31258	31267	31069
VS - Non Practising	2349	2347	2356	2322
VS - Non Practising 70+	1470	1461	1442	1276
VS - Practising outside the UK	3705	3714	3733	3737
VS - Republic of Ireland	326	325	320	267
Total	39074	39105	39118	38671

Vet Nurse Registration movements

VN Movements 2024	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Yearly Increase
VN - Period of Supervised Practice	27	23	20	23	21	21	21	17	16	14	13	12	11	
VN - Registered Veterinary Nurse	23508	23269	23472	23542	23705	23831	24106	24506	24642	24816	24849	24935	24952	6.10%
VN - Student Veterinary Nurse	7054	7011	7069	7170	6493	6396	6246	6283	6321	6485	6832	6924	6910	
VN - VN Applicant	67	163	54	10	655	660	546	191	135	71	70	77	57	
VN - OS qualified VN	73	84	69	73	79	80	83	73	70	72	75	77	72	
Total	30656	30466	30615	30818	30953	30988	31002	31070	31184	31458	31839	32025	32002	

VN Movements 2025	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25
VN - Period of Supervised Practice	11	11	13	11
VN - Registered Veterinary Nurse	24952	24823	24932	24989
VN - Student Veterinary Nurse	6910	6861	6898	6883
VN - VN Applicant	57	71	29	61
VN - OS qualified VN	72	81	84	78
	31930	31766	31872	32022