

Summary

Meeting	Council
Date	5 June 2025
Title	RVN Preliminary Investigation Committee Report to Council
Summary	This report sets out the work of the Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC)
Decisions required	None
Attachments	None
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Classifications

Document	Classification ¹	Rationales ²
Paper	Unclassified	N/A

1 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.

2 Classification rationales

Confidential	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To allow the Committee or Council to come to a view itself, before presenting to and/or consulting with others 2. To maintain the confidence of another organisation 3. To protect commercially sensitive information 4. To maintain public confidence in and/or uphold the reputation of the veterinary professions and/or the RCVS
Private	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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

Registered Veterinary Nurses Preliminary Investigation Committee

Report to Council

Introduction

1. Since the last Report to Council, there have been two meetings of the Stage 2 VN PIC, which took place on 11 March and 15 April. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 27 May 2025.

RVN Concerns received / registered

2. In the period 1 March 2025 and 20 May 2025, there were 13 new Concerns relating to RVNs. Of these 13 new Concerns:
 - 1 case closed at Stage 1 VNPIC.
 - 10 cases are currently under investigation by a Case Manager, Veterinary Nurse, Veterinary surgeon, and a lay member (Stage 1 VNPIC).
 - 2 cases have been referred to Stage 2 VNPIC.

RVN Preliminary Investigation Committee

3. No new cases have been considered by the Stage 2 VNPIC between 1 March 2025 and 20 May 2025. Six ongoing cases (involving five Respondents) were referred to the RVN Disciplinary Committee.

Ongoing Investigations

4. Three concerns are currently under investigation by the Stage 2 VN PIC, and these will be returned to the Committee for a decision in due course.

Health Concerns

5. There are currently no RVNs being managed in the context of the RCVS Health Protocol.

Performance Concerns

6. There are currently no RVNs being managed in the context of the RCVS Performance Protocol.

Referral to Disciplinary Committee

7. Since the last report, six cases (involving five Respondents) have been referred to the RVN Disciplinary Committee.

Referral to Charter Case Committee

8. Since the last report, no cases have been referred to the Charter Case Committee.

Disciplinary Hearings

9. Since the last report, two disciplinary hearings have taken place in relation to veterinary nurses. The first hearing took place on 26th and 27th February 2025 and related to the Respondent's conviction for fraud by abuse of position. The Disciplinary Committee found that the conviction,

set out in the charge, rendered the Respondent unfit to practise and directed the Registrar to remove the Respondent's name from the Register.

10. The second hearing took place between 10th and 12th March 2025 and related to the veterinary nurse's conviction for stealing controlled drugs from a practice where they were employed. A further four charges related to incidents in which the Respondent dishonestly took veterinary medicines from her place of work. The Disciplinary Committee concluded that for each of the individual charges, the Respondent's conduct fell far short of the conduct expected of a member of the profession and that each of the charges one to four amounted to serious professional misconduct. In relation to charge five, the criminal conviction, the Committee concluded that it rendered the veterinary nurse unfit to practise. The Committee concluded that the sanction of removal was the only proportionate sanction it could impose and therefore directed the Registrar to remove the Respondent's name from the Register.