

Summary	
Meeting	Council
Date	10 November 2022
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	Classification¹	Rationales²
Paper	Unclassified	n/a

¹Classifications 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.

²Classification 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 three meetings of the RVN Preliminary Investigation Committee, which took place on 28 June, 9 August and 20 September.

RVN Concerns received / registered

2. In the period 25 May to 24 October 2022, there were 13 new Concerns relating to RVNs. Of these 13 new Concerns:
 - Two cases were closed at Stage 1 of the concerns process.
 - 10 are currently under investigation by the Case Examiner Group (a veterinary nurse and lay member on RVN PIC and a Case Manager). One case has been registered under the new concerns process and is under investigation by a Case Manager, Veterinary Nurse, Veterinary Surgeon and a lay member (Stage 1 Preliminary Investigation Committee).

RVN Preliminary Investigation Committee

3. There have been five new cases considered by the RVN PIC between 25 May and 24 October. Two of these cases were referred to external solicitors for formal statements to be taken; one case was adjourned for further investigation and two cases were referred to the Disciplinary Committee. An ongoing case was considered by the Committee at its meeting on 9 August and was closed with advice issued to the RVN. An ongoing case was also considered by the Committee at its meeting on 20 September and this matter was referred to external solicitors for formal statements to be taken.

Ongoing Investigations

4. One concern is currently under investigation and will be returned to the RVN PIC for a decision in due course.

Health Concerns

5. One RVN is currently 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, two cases have been referred to the RVN Disciplinary Committee.

Disciplinary Hearings

8. A disciplinary hearing in respect of Stephanie Hazelwood took place from Monday 22nd to Tuesday 23rd August 2022. The Disciplinary Committee found that the charges amounted to serious professional misconduct and decided to impose a three-month suspension.

9. A disciplinary hearing in respect of Chelsea Strangeway took place from Tuesday 20th to Wednesday 21st September 2022. The Disciplinary Committee found that Ms Strangeway's conduct amounted to serious professional misconduct and directed the Registrar to remove her name from the Register.
10. A disciplinary hearing in respect of Katherine Heyes took place from Wednesday 27th to Thursday 28th September 2022. The Disciplinary Committee found that the charge amounted to disgraceful conduct, and it decided to issue Ms Heyes with a reprimand and formal warning as to her future conduct.

Operational matters

11. As of 1 October 2022, a new concerns investigation process was introduced. The CEG stage of the process has been replaced by Stage One Preliminary Investigation Committees which, rather than using the 'arguable case' threshold, will consider from the outset whether there is a realistic prospect that the alleged conduct constitutes serious professional misconduct and that there is sufficient evidence to prove this.
12. Training took place for members of the department and Committee members, both new and existing on 23 September. This covered the changes to the concerns process, as well as other matters and updates to the relevant field of law.