

Summary	
Meeting	Council
Date	20 November 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	Classification¹	Rationales²
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 five meetings of the Stage 2 VN PIC, which took place on 27 May, 8 July, 19 August, 23 September and 4 November. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 16 December 2025.

RVN Concerns received / registered

2. In the period 21 May 2025 and 7 November 2025, there were 36 new Concerns relating to RVNs. Of these 36 new Concerns:
 - 4 cases closed at Stage 1 VNPIC.
 - 30 cases are currently under investigation by a Case Manager, Veterinary Nurse, Veterinary surgeon, and a lay member (Stage 1 VNPIC).
 - 1 case has been adjourned for consideration by the Stage 2 VNPIC.
 - 1 case has been referred to the RVN Disciplinary Committee.

RVN Preliminary Investigation Committee

3. Eight new cases have been considered by the Stage 2 VNPIC between 21 May 2025 and 7 November 2025. Of these eight new cases, two cases closed (one with formal advice issued to the Respondent), two cases were adjourned to obtain further information, two cases were referred to external solicitors for formal statements to be taken, and two cases were referred to the RVN Disciplinary Committee.

Ongoing Investigations

4. Six 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, three cases (involving three 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, three disciplinary hearings have taken place in relation to veterinary nurses. The first hearing took place between 19 and 21 May 2025 and related to the Respondent's conviction of three counts of causing serious injury by dangerous driving. The Disciplinary Committee did not consider that the Respondent's conduct was liable to have a seriously detrimental effect on the reputation of the profession and concluded that the public, in full knowledge of the circumstances of this particular case, would not expect a finding that the conviction renders the Respondent unfit to practise as a veterinary nurse.
10. The second hearing took place between 10 and 12 September 2025. The charges related to leaving hospitalised animals unattended and falsifying clinical records to suggest that the relevant clinical checks had been made when the Respondent had, in fact, fallen asleep. The Committee found serious professional misconduct and decided to impose a period of suspension of six months.
11. The third hearing took place between 20 and 24 October 2025. The charges related to incidents in which the Respondent acted against veterinary instruction and/or acted without the direction of and/or authorisation of a registered veterinary surgeon. The Committee found serious professional misconduct and directed the Registrar to remove the Respondent from the Register of Veterinary Nurses.