

## Standards Committee

### Agenda for the meeting to be held on 15 May 2023 at 10.00am

1.	Apologies for absence, declarations of interest and minutes of the meeting held on February 21 2023.	Minutes attached
2.	Matters for decision	
	a. TRNOV scheme ( <b>confidential</b> )	Paper attached
	b. Defra – update vet visit attestations ( <b>confidential</b> )	Paper attached
	c. Under care ( <b>confidential</b> )	Paper attached
	d. Referral practices - is current guidance sufficient ( <b>confidential</b> )	Paper attached
	e. PSS ( <b>confidential</b> )	Paper attached
	f. Canine AI ( <b>confidential</b> )	Paper attached
	g. Review SC terms of reference	Paper attached
3.	Matters for note	
	a. Defra – update on remote inspections for AI ( <b>confidential</b> )	Paper attached
4.	Matters for report	
	a. Disciplinary Committee Report	Paper attached
	b. Practice Standards Scheme Report	Paper attached
	c. Riding Establishments Subcommittee Report	Paper attached
5.	<b>Confidential</b> matters for report	
	a. Routine Veterinary Practice Subcommittee Report	Paper attached
	b. Ethics Review Panel Report	Paper attached
	c. Certification Subcommittee Report	Paper attached
6.	Risk and equality	Oral update

7.	Any other business and date of next meeting on September 11 2023	Oral update
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**Standards Committee 2022/2023**

**Chair:**

Miss Linda Belton BVSc MRCVS

**Members:**

Dr Louise Allum VetMB MRCVS

Ms Belinda Andrews-Jones DipAVN (surgical) RVN

Mr Mark Castle OBE

Dr Danny Chambers BVSc MRCVS

Dr Olivia Cook MRCVS

Dr Matshidiso Gardiner MRCVS

Ms Claire-Louise McLaughlan MA LLB(Hons)

Mrs Claire Roberts DipAVN (surgical) RVN

Mr Will Wilkinson MRCVS

<b>Summary</b>	
Meeting	Standards Committee
Date	21 February 2023
Title	Standards Committee Minutes
Summary	Minutes of Standards Committee held remotely on Tuesday, 21 February 2023, at 4pm
Attachments	Classified appendix
Author	Vicki Price Senior Standards and Advice Officer <a href="mailto:v.price@rcvs.org.uk">v.price@rcvs.org.uk</a>

<b>Classifications</b>		
<b>Document</b>	<b>Classification<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Rationales<sup>2</sup></b>
Paper	Unclassified	n/a
Classified appendix	<b>Confidential</b>	1, 2 and 3

**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"> <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>

Minutes of the Standards Committee held remotely on Tuesday, 21 February 2023,  
at 4 pm

Members:

L Allum	
B Andrews-Jones	
L Belton	Chair
M Castle	
D Chambers	
O Cook	
M Gardiner	
C-L McLaughlan	Vice Chair
C Roberts	
W Wilkinson	

In attendance:

RCVS	E C Ferguson	Registrar
	M Donald	President
	G Kingswell	Head of Legal Services (Standards)
	B Jinks	Standards and Advisory Lead
	V Price	Senior Standards and Advice Officer
	K Richardson	Senior Standards and Advice Officer

### AI 1 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

1. Apologies were received from M Castle, D Chambers, M Gardiner and C Roberts.
2. No new declarations of interest were received.

### Matters for decision

#### AI 2(a) UCOOH case studies and other matters - confidential

3. See paragraphs 1-5 of the classified appendix.

### AI 3 Any other business and date of next meeting

4. The date of the next meeting is 15 May 2023.

#### Table of actions – confidential

5. Please see confidential appendix.

<b>Summary</b>	
Meeting	Standards
Date	15 May 2023
Title	Disciplinary Committee Report
Summary	Update of Disciplinary Committee since the last Standards meeting on 6 February 2023
Decisions required	None
Attachments	None
Author	Yemisi Yusuph DC Clerk <a href="mailto:y.yusuph@rcvs.org.uk">y.yusuph@rcvs.org.uk</a>

<b>Classifications</b>		
<b>Document</b>	<b>Classification<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Rationales<sup>2</sup></b>
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## Report of Disciplinary Committee hearings since the last Standards meeting on 6 February 2023

### Hearings

#### Simon Hutton

1. The Committee met between Monday 20 February – Friday 24 February 2023, to hear the Inquiry into Simon Hutton.
2. The Inquiry was in relation to the charges against him, namely that, on 12 February 2021, Mr Hutton had attended to Angel the horse at a livery yard in Sheffield. During the course of the examination of the horse, it was alleged that Angel had kicked Mr Hutton with her left hind leg, whereupon, in response, Mr Hutton had kicked Angel in her abdomen.
3. From the outset of the hearing Mr Hutton admitted the facts of the allegation against him. The Committee noted the admission to the facts and noted that there was a dispute between parties as to the exact manner in which the kick had been administered and whether the conduct amounted to disgraceful conduct in a professional respect. Mr Hutton and Angel's owner, Ms A, had both obtained the opinion of experts, which were not in agreement as to whether his conduct amounted to serious professional misconduct.
4. The Committee heard from Mr Gliddon (the College expert) who provided a written report. Mr Gliddon believed if, as Mr Hutton and his counsel stated, the kick was delivered instantaneously and instinctively in response to Angel's kick then Mr Hutton's conduct would fall below, but not far below, the standard expected for veterinary surgeons. Mr Gliddon said in his report that if the Committee preferred Ms A's account, that the kick was not instinctive and instantaneous, then the matter was more serious. He stated that, if Mr Hutton had sufficient opportunity to decide on his course of action, then it was deliberate and would fall far below the standard of conduct expected of a reasonably competent veterinary surgeon.
5. The Committee was provided with written submissions on serious professional misconduct by Ms Greany, counsel for the College. Ms Greany stated that principles 1.1 (*Veterinary surgeons must make animal health and welfare their first consideration when attending to animals*) and 6.5 (*Veterinary surgeons must not engage in any activity or behaviour that would be likely to bring the profession into disrepute or under-mine public confidence in the profession*) of the *Code of Professional Conduct* had been breached. It was submitted that, on the basis that there had been a deliberate decision by Mr Hutton to kick Angel in the abdomen, he had time to consider his actions. The College submitted that deliberately kicking Angel, either as punishment or by way of teaching or training a horse, fell far below the standard expected of veterinary surgeons.
6. In establishing whether there was in fact serious misconduct, the Committee took into account all circumstances and its findings. It determined that this conduct was a single, but serious failure on the part of Mr Hutton and found the facts proved amounted to disgraceful conduct in a professional respect.

7. The full decision on findings of facts and disgraceful conduct can be found here: <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/hutton-simon-february-2023-rcvs-dc-decision-disgraceful-conduct/>
8. The Committee went to determine what sanction to impose on Mr Hutton. In doing so, the Committee considered the aggravating and mitigating factors of the case, based on findings at the earlier stages of the hearing. The Committee found that there had been a risk of physical and/or mental injury to Angel from Mr Hutton's conduct but accepted that there were a number of mitigating factors.
9. The Committee found that the incident had occurred over a very brief period and that Mr Hutton had not taken proper time to consider his response to Angel's unexpected kick. This was found to be a single isolated incident and the character evidence indicated that otherwise, Mr Hutton was a competent and well-regarded veterinary surgeon. Mr Hutton admitted the kick early on in the proceeding and had issued an early apology, albeit seeking initially to raise some justification for his actions.
10. In light of Mr Hutton's admissions, heartfelt apologies, developing insight and the testimonial evidence, that he is very unlikely to repeat his past misconduct. Furthermore, despite the low risk of repetition, the Committee considered that the nature of the kick, delivered without the consent of the owner, could undermine public confidence in the profession. In conclusion, the Committee considered that it was proportionate to issue a reprimand together with a warning as to Mr Hutton's future conduct. It was determined that this would be proportionate and sufficient to provide adequate protection for animals and maintain public confidence in the profession.
11. The full decision on sanction can be found here: <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/hutton-simon-february-2023-rcvs-dc-decision-sanction/>

#### Nicola Burrows

12. Dr Nicola Jade Burrows MRCVS was removed from the Register on 11 May 2021 for creating an inaccurate clinical history for her own horse and then dishonestly attempting to make an insurance claim for the treatment of her horse.
13. Dr Burrows' adjourned application for restoration to the Register was heard by the Committee on Thursday 9 March to Friday 10 March 2023. In her restoration application, Dr Burrows included continuing professional development (CPD) certificates covering the courses she had completed during the period since her removal from the Register.
14. Also included were letters/informal witness statements from the veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses she had worked with since her removal from the Register and who expressed a willingness to employ her again were the Committee to permit her name to be restored to the Register, as well as character references and reflection statements.
15. At the hearing, the Disciplinary Committee considered whether she had accepted the findings of the Committee at the original inquiry hearing, the seriousness of those findings, whether she had demonstrated insight into her past conduct, and the protection of the public and the public interest.
16. In addition to the documentation provided to the Committee, Dr Burrows also made a detailed opening statement in support of her application.

17. Within this, she said that the period since her name was removed from the Register was extremely difficult and also emphasised that she now fully and unconditionally accepted all the Committee's original findings in May 2021, some of which she had previously denied and had failed to acknowledge.
18. Dr Burrows went on to state that she only had herself to blame for her actions and that she now understood and accepted that the original sanction of removal from the register had needed to be severe given the serious breach of trust to the public, to the veterinary profession and the insurance industry that was a direct consequence of her dishonest actions.
19. Since removal from the Register, Dr Burrows had taken on the role of receptionist in a Vets4Pets practice in Cardiff, which required her to deal directly with the public and their insurance requests and entitlements. She stated that as a result of her involvement over the past 18 months in processing insurance claims, she acknowledges the "delicate" relationship between veterinary surgeons, clients and insurers.
20. Additionally, working as a receptionist, had allowed her to recognise the need for contemporaneous and clear clinical notes. She also highlighted her CPD, which was relevant to insurance, as well as the fact she'd undertaken a professional ethics course to assist her rehabilitation, reflection, and insight.
21. In support of Dr Burrows' restoration to the Register, the Committee took into account three witness accounts from people who work at the Vets4Pets branch where Dr Burrows works as a receptionist. All witnesses gave positive reflections on Dr Burrows' character and assured the Committee that they would provide the correct level of support to allow her to return to work safely and that they would have all the necessary safeguarding measures in place to ensure that the public's and the profession's interest is always at the forefront.
22. Judith Way, chairing the Disciplinary Committee and speaking on its behalf, said: "The Committee was impressed by the fact that busy professionals chose to give up their time to provide witness statements and give evidence in support of Dr Burrows' application. All witnesses were clearly supportive of Dr Burrows' request for restoration to the Register.
23. "The Committee found Dr Burrows to show remorse and she does now accept the findings of dishonesty that were made against her in the original enquiry hearing and stated that her conduct was dishonest. In the Committee's view, the evidence given by Dr Burrows on affirmation was very believable and she now accepts her dishonesty together with the gravity of her dishonesty.
24. "The Committee also formed the view that the steps she has taken to address her dishonesty serve to confirm that she is passionate about the prospect that she be allowed to return to practise. The Committee was impressed by Dr Burrows and the evidence given and is now satisfied that she will ensure the highest standards of probity and honesty in the future.

#### Katherine Power

25. The Committee first met to hear the Inquiry into Katharine Power MRCVS in November 2022 with subsequent hearings taking place in both February and March 2023. The charges against Dr Power related to alleged clinical and communications failings in respect of surgery carried out on two separate dogs on two separate occasions. The first concerned laryngeal tieback surgery carried out on, Harvey, a Tibetan Terrier in March 2018, and the second concerned oesophageal surgery carried out on a boxer dog, Boss, in October 2018.
26. The full charges can be found here: [Power, Katharine February 2023 Charges - Professionals \(rcvs.org.uk\)](https://www.rcvs.org.uk)

27. at the outset of the hearing in November 2022, the College asked to withdraw a number of the charges, with further charges also being withdrawn during the course of the hearing after hearing from relevant witnesses.
28. In respect of the laryngeal surgery, Dr Power made admissions that she had failed to undertake pre-operative radiographs before proceeding with the surgery, had failed to perform the surgery appropriately (in that she dissected excessive tissue and had inappropriately placed sutures), and had undertaken the surgery when it was outside her area of competence. In relation to Boss, Dr Power also admitted to failing to provide a referral report and/or clinical records to the veterinary practice he was referred from, despite requests from the practice.
29. The Committee, on cross-examining witnesses and hearing the evidence, including that provided by expert witnesses, found the majority of those charges that had not been withdrawn by the College or admitted by Dr Power, not proven. However, in addition to the admitted charges, in respect of the oesophageal surgery, the Committee found that, with a total of 9.5 hours, Dr Power had subjected Boss to an excessive period of anaesthesia.
30. The Committee's decision on finding of facts can be found here: [Power, Katharine February 2023 Decision of the Disciplinary Committee on Findings of Fact - Professionals \(rcvs.org.uk\)](https://rcvs.org.uk/decisions/2023/02/23/Power-Katharine-February-2023-Decision-of-the-Disciplinary-Committee-on-Findings-of-Fact-Professionals)
31. The Committee then went on to consider whether the proven charges amounted to serious professional conduct. Counsel for the College submitted that Dr Power's conduct breached the part of the *Code of Professional Conduct* relating to veterinary surgeons keeping within their area of competence and referring responsibly; and providing veterinary care that is appropriate and adequate. In terms of aggravating factors, the College submitted that there was both actual injury to the animal, as well as actions that posed a risk of injury, that Dr Power financially benefitted from the alleged misconduct as she was paid to perform a procedure outside her competence, and that she occupied a position of increased trust and responsibility as she advertised and held herself out as a practitioner who accepted referrals and was competent to perform soft tissue surgery.
32. Dr Power's counsel submitted that the charges that had been found proven amounted to clinical and administrative failings and that this was not a case of a veterinary surgeon deliberately or recklessly acting outside of their capabilities, but rather a case where a diligent and responsible veterinary surgeon had fallen short in discrete areas of her clinical practice and had reasonably believed at the time that she was competent to perform the surgery.
33. Noting that not every breach of the *Code of Professional Conduct* will necessarily amount to serious professional misconduct, the Committee itself found that, although the conduct within the proven charges fell short of what would be reasonably expected of a veterinary surgeon, it did not fall so far short that her conduct constituted serious professional misconduct.
34. The full decision on disgraceful conduct can be found here: [Morris, Libby March 2023 Decision of the Disciplinary Committee on Disgraceful Conduct in a Professional Respect - Professionals \(rcvs.org.uk\)](https://rcvs.org.uk/decisions/2023/03/23/Morris-Libby-March-2023-Decision-of-the-Disciplinary-Committee-on-Disgraceful-Conduct-in-a-Professional-Respect-Professionals)
35. The Chair of the Disciplinary Committee stated that: "The Committee understood that it had a responsibility to consider the wider public interest, taking into account the view of a reasonable member of the public in possession of all the relevant facts and information.
36. "The Committee considered that such a member of the public would understand that veterinary surgery is a challenging profession. It was of the view that such a member of the public would not expect perfection, but understand that any professional practitioner may make mistakes in the course of their practice." "It is the judgement of this Committee that the respondent's conduct does not constitute disgraceful conduct in a professional respect."

37. The full decision on sanction can be found here: [Morris, Libby March 2023 Decision of the Disciplinary Committee on Sanction - Professionals \(rcvs.org.uk\)](https://rcvs.org.uk/disciplinary/committees/2023-03-27-31-03-2023)

#### Libby Morris RVN

38. Between Monday 27 March to Friday 31 March 2023, the RVN Committee met to hear the Inquiry into Miss Libby Morris.
39. The Inquiry was in relation to three charges that were brought against her. All three charges involved concerns about her care for a post-operative German Shepherd dog at a Devon veterinary practice on 25 December 2020.
40. The first charge was that she left the dog unattended between 12.15pm and 2.30pm, made clinical records entries before leaving the practice indicating she'd made these entries at 2pm when she had not, and at 1.41pm sent a message to a veterinary surgeon colleague in which she purported to be providing contemporaneous updates about the dog's condition and circumstances when she was not, in fact, with the animal. The second charge alleged that her conduct from the first charge was potentially detrimental to the dog's welfare, while the third charge alleged that the same conduct was dishonest and/or misleading.
41. At the outset of the hearing Miss Morris admitted the majority of the charges, although she denied that she had made the clinical record dishonestly on the basis that she had innocently omitted to correct a time entry she had earlier made in the records as a "prompt". After considering evidence from the College's and Miss Morris's witnesses, the Committee found that she had been dishonest as she knowingly pre-entered the incorrect time in order to cover up for a period of absence from the practice.
42. With all the charges having been admitted or found proven, the Committee then went on to consider whether the charges amounted to serious professional misconduct. In making this decision, the Committee considered the aggravating and mitigating factors in Miss Morris's conduct. In terms of aggravating factors, the Committee found that there was: a real risk of injury to the animal having left it unattended for more than two hours while it was recovering from a serious emergency procedure; dishonesty; recklessness regarding the dog's welfare; pre-meditated misconduct as she had knowingly made the false clinical record in advance; breach of client trust; and, breach of the position of trust and responsibility placed in her as she was on-call that day and had the sole responsibility for the dog.
43. In terms of mitigation, the Committee considered that this was a single isolated incident, albeit involving a series of misconduct, in respect of one animal, and that, although there was a risk of harm in leaving a vulnerable animal unattended, her actions did not directly lead to any harm coming to the animal, which did, however, subsequently die from post-operative complications.
44. Overall, the Committee found that Miss Morris's conduct would undermine the public trust and confidence placed in the veterinary nursing profession as a whole as well as bring the profession into disrepute and so found that her actions amounted to serious professional misconduct.

45. In deciding the most appropriate sanction for Miss Morris, the Committee took into account the previously mentioned aggravating and mitigating factors, but also considered a number of further pertinent mitigating factors. These were: Miss Morris's youth and inexperience at the time of the misconduct; her previously unblemished career; her open and frank admissions to the majority of the charges; her efforts to avoid repeating such behaviours; efforts to remediate past misconduct; the significant lapse of time between the incident and the disciplinary hearing; demonstration of insight into her misconduct; and positive personal character references and testimonials.
46. Mrs Judith Way, chairing the Committee and speaking on its behalf, said: "In deciding the proportionate sanction the Committee considered the nature and extent of the dishonesty it had found proved. When considering where the dishonesty fell on a scale of dishonesty, it noted that the respondent had acted dishonestly within her practice as a veterinary nurse, on three clinical records, but that the dishonesty related to a single incident and one patient with the aim of extending her time away from the practice on Christmas Day. It therefore concluded that this could be described as middle ranging dishonesty (not the most or least serious type of dishonesty).
47. Overall, having considered all the matters above, the Committee concluded that Miss Morris should receive a suspension of 6 months.
48. The full decision can be found here: [Burrows, Nicola March 2023 Decision of the Disciplinary Committee on Application for Restoration - Professionals \(rcvs.org.uk\)](https://www.rcvs.org.uk/disciplinary-panels/panels-of-interest/burrows-nicola-march-2023-decision-of-the-disciplinary-committee-on-application-for-restoration-professionals)

#### Upcoming DC case

1. The DC currently have 4 hearings listed,
  - 24-28 April 2023
  - 19-27 June 2023
  - 3-14 July 2023
  - 31 July – 8 August 2023
2. There are currently two cases that have been referred, which will be listed shortly.

<b>Summary</b>	
Meeting	Standards Committee
Date	15 May 2023
Title	Practice Standards Scheme Update
Summary	An update on the Practice Standards Scheme ("PSS")
Decisions required	No decisions required – For information only
Attachments	None
Authors	Sarah Iddon, Head of Legal Services- PSS s.iddon@rcvs.org.uk

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

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## An Update on the Practice Standards Scheme

### PSG Meetings

1. PSG last met on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The minutes from this meeting are yet to be ratified. However, the main discussions and decisions here:

### Matters for information – updates to PSS guidance covering the following topics:

2. RCVS Knowledge has launched a new free course: '[Managing Veterinary Medicines: Staying Legal and Promoting Safety](#)' RCVS Knowledge has launched a new free course 'Managing Veterinary Medicines: Staying Legal and Promoting Safety', which is also being promoted and encouraged to practice premises, large organisations and PSS Assessors. Details and links have been provided both on our PSS internet pages and on our resource pages: <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/practice-standards-scheme/additional-training-and-resources/>
3. Farm vet Champions – was a major collaborative project, spearheaded by RCVS Knowledge, and funded by VMD, to empower the veterinary community in a united front to tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Links to the course will be provided from the Medicines Farm Core standards 8.1.28 & 8.1.30 – to the resources section where there will be a FVC link <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/practice-standards-scheme/additional-training-and-resources/>
4. Carrying firearms – additional guidance relating to the transportation and storage of firearms will be added at 16.1.35 to reference the Firearms Security Handbook 2020 and Section 5 guidance that specifically relates to vets carrying firearms.
5. Delivery of oxygen therapy SA 14.1.5 – clarification has been added to confirm that the ambubag must be connected to an oxygen source following an earlier PSG decision.
6. Destruction of CDs –'independent witness' - a link will be provided at SA 10.1.11 to the updated VMD guidance on what constitutes an 'independent witness' for the purposes of destruction of CDs. The VMD are aware that the examples they use in their guidance is not sufficiently clear to distinguish that the independent witness needs to be from a separate legal entity organisation.

### PSS Update

7. Operational changes have been implemented to move towards a more supportive approach. This has included moving to a geographical model and a team of 4 officers to support our 3,889-practice premises. and a new Lead Officer role has been recruited with effect from end February.
8. A part time Lead Assessor support role has been created to support to the Lead Assessor 4 days per month. Anne Lawson will commence this role from May in addition to their assessor duties.
9. The four new assessors, 2 RVN's and 2 MRCVSs (1 equine) started in October 2022 and have attended their 2-day classroom training in October and have been assessing solo from

January 2023. Their feedback from the face-to-face induction and training programme has been very positive.

10. Figures for 2022 (compared to 2021):

**PSS Membership Total:** 3,889 an increase to 73% of total eligible total UK practice premises

**New joiners** = 228 has decreased overall compared to 2021

**Leavers** = 50 (approx.) has increased slightly

**Assessment total** = 1,016 has slightly decreased on last year but remains an increase to pre-covid years. Exact figures are: Q1= 251, Q2= 269, Q3=231, Q4=265.

**Delay request total** = 95 has sharply risen on last year as expected given the challenges that practice premises still face.

**Awards assessments** = 82 have seen a decrease but is reflective of practices focusing on their routine assessments. post covid

**In progress/ not yet compliant** = 591 this figure continues to rise.

11. Demand and capacity remains high with projected figures for Q1 and Q2 2023 as below:

**Q1 allocations:** total premises to be assessed 291, of which 211 routines, 79 new applications/initial assessments, 1 award.

**Q2 allocations:** total premises to be assessed 248, of which 203 are routines, 31 are initials/new applications, 14 are awards - 1 of these is our first Environmental Sustainability awards assessment.

12. The team have been looking closely at the forecast of assessments for 2024/2025 where we have a peak and trough effect as we mark the four-year cycle post lockdown so that these can be smoothed out.

13. There has been some interest in the Environmental Sustainability Award from January 2023 (approximately 12 practice premises). These are being rolled out throughout 2023. The first Environmental Sustainability Award will be assessed in the North of England in May., with the changes to the Standards due in June 2023.

**Update from Lead Assessor**

14. General update – The climate in industry is still very uncertain. The ongoing recruitment/retention crisis is still very palpable which has led to many practices finding the preparation for a PSS assessment difficult and leading to an increase in delay requests and extensions on evidence deadlines.

15. The PSS team can report that a firmer approach to delays is proving more productive and is allowing the assessment to go ahead with less disruption to both the allocations process and to the practice. In most instances we are able to work with the practice and demonstrate the benefits of assessment day despite any lack of preparation. Requests are still being considered by Review Group where a request is likely to succeed, and flexibility is granted for those who are evidencing their difficulties.

16. Following approval of the new terms of reference for Review Group in August 2022. We have recruited Sally Stockton as a new member of Review Group. She brings expertise in all species, accreditation and award levels and has carried out over 700 assessments for PSS since 2016.
17. Our top ten deficiencies remain consistent and presented below in order. We will in the future also present data for the top 10 excluding VMRs and begin to capture data that is displayed by species and accreditation, and yearly figures to see trends.

Number	Description
10.1.6	Monitoring and recording of environmental temperatures wherever medicines are stored must be undertaken (including consulting rooms, prep rooms, refrigerators and vehicles).
10.1.13	If Controlled Drugs are kept, these must be recorded according to current legislation.
16.1.21	The practice must have a written programme for the inspection and testing of all its electrical equipment, based on its specific risk assessment
10.1.29	For medicines requiring special handling e.g. cytotoxic/cytostatic/certain hormones the practice has in place SOPs for their storage, administration and disposal.
16.1.36	Medical gas cylinders must be stored and handled safely. There must be signage and information for the emergency services
10.1.7	If it is stipulated that a medicine be used within a specific time period, it must be labelled with the opening date or use by date, once broached.
5.1.10	The practice must appoint a radiation protection adviser (RPA) who possesses appropriate knowledge and experience relevant to veterinary practice
16.1.28	The practice must have performed a fire risk assessment and regular fire practice evacuations.
10.1.21	Veterinary medicinal products must be supplied in appropriate containers.
10.1.14	The practice must carry out a full audit and reconciliation of all Schedule 2 Controlled Drugs. There must be SOPs for storage and recording of Controlled Drugs.
10.1.25	Consent for products supplied under the Cascade is required.

18. Standards is advised that only assessments where at least one requirement in the selected modules is deficient are included in the data. In addition, the data includes assessments where requirements are marked as deficient on multiple occasions in the post-assessment stage.
19. Some measures have been taken address some of the common deficiencies found at PSS assessments and more will be done in 2023 to tackle these trends.

**Ensuring compliance with PSS**

20. PSG also discussed for decision and recommendation to Standards - Ensuring compliance with PSS Standards - *Paper enclosed, CONFIDENTIAL.*

**The 5 yearly review of Standards**

21. The 5 yearly review of Standards was discussed as a confidential discussion to understand what the future of the standards may look like for 2025. PSS will continue these conversations and engage with other stakeholders in due course.

<b>Summary</b>	
Meeting	Standards Committee
Date	8 February 2023
Title	Riding Establishments Subcommittee report
Summary	Standards Committee is asked to note this brief update on the work and considerations of the Riding Establishments Subcommittee. The topics discussed are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023 Inspector Training and Induction Course;</li> <li>• <i>REIN 2023</i> Newsletter; and</li> <li>• Advice queries.</li> </ul>
Decisions required	None
Attachments	None
Author	Vicki Price  Senior Standards and Advice Officer  v.price@rcvs.org.uk

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

<b>1Classifications explained</b>	
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"> <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>

## 2023 Inspector Training and Induction Course

1. The Subcommittee has continued work with the Academy team to re-record and update the existing Riding Establishment Training and Induction course webinar series, so as to create a new Riding Establishment online training course for new and refreshing riding establishment inspectors on RCVS Academy.
2. The Riding Establishment Training Academy course is currently being quality assured by the Subcommittee and RCVS staff ready for launch of the course to participants on Monday 15 May.
3. Course participants will be given from 15 May – 12 June 2023 to complete the course, which is estimated to take approximately four hours to complete. The course includes webinars on the legislation governing riding establishments, inspecting horses, inspecting the premises, inspecting saddlery and tack, and the inspector's conclusion. Knowledge check questions have been included at the end of each webinar. Integrated forms have also been included whereby participants can submit written questions they have in relation to any of the webinars, which subcommittee members will address at either the in-person training day for new applicants or one of the online Q&A sessions for refreshers, to be held at the end of June/beginning of July.
4. Arrangements have been made for the in-person training day for new applicants to be held at the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) National Training Centre in Warwickshire, on Tuesday 20 June 2023. Inspectors who are due to refresh their training may also choose to attend the in-person training day rather than one of the online Q&A sessions, if preferred.

## REIN 2023

5. The Subcommittee has drafted articles for the 2023 edition of *REIN* and the draft newsletter is currently being finalised by the RCVS communications team ready for imminent circulation to the Inspectorate.

## Advice queries

6. The Standards and Advice Team continue to receive a steady number of enquiries from local authorities, veterinary surgeon inspectors and the owners of riding establishments.
7. Recent queries have related to the following topics:
  - a. Training and experience requirements for riding establishment licence holders/owners;
  - b. The inspection of RDA riding establishments;

- c. Eligibility requirements for veterinary surgeons who wish to become a riding establishment inspector, and for existing members of the Inspectorate who wish to remain on the Inspectorate List;
- d. Concerns regarding non-compliant riding establishments;
- e. Queries regarding the annual Training and Induction Course.