

Veterinary Nurses Council

Meeting to be held on Wednesday 25 February 2026 at 10.00am
at the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, 1 Hardwick Street, London EC1R 4RB

Agenda	Classification ¹	Rationale ²
1. Apologies for absence	Oral report Unclassified	n/a
2. Declarations of interest	Oral report Unclassified	n/a
3. Obituaries	Oral report Unclassified	n/a
4. Minutes of meeting held on 12 November 2025		
i. Unclassified minutes	Unclassified	n/a
ii. Classified appendix	Confidential	1,2,3,4
5. Matters arising	Oral report	n/a
6. CEO update	Oral report	n/a
Matters for decision by VN Council and reports from Committees (unclassified items)		
7. VN Education Committee		
Minutes of meeting held on 17 December 2025		
i. Unclassified minutes	Unclassified	n/a
ii. Classified appendix (see item 17.02)	Confidential	2,3,4
Matters for note		
8. Reports from RCVS Committees		
8.01 VN Preliminary Investigation Committee	Unclassified	n/a
8.02 Advancement of the Professions Committee	Oral report	n/a

8.03	Standards Committee	Oral report	n/a
8.04	Registration Committee	Oral report	n/a
8.05	VN Disciplinary Committee	Oral report	n/a
9.	Communications report	Oral report	n/a
10.	VN Council election 2026	Oral report	n/a
11.	VN Register report Registrations, student enrolments, and PSP numbers	Unclassified	n/a
12.	Any other business (unclassified)		
13.	Date of next meeting Wednesday 13 May 2026 at 10.00am		

Confidential and private items (closed session)

14.	Defra consultation on legislative reform	Confidential	1
15.	Risk Register		
	15.01 Risk Register annual review	Confidential	1,2,3,4
	15.02 Items to be added to Risk Register		
16.	RCVS Honours and Awards	Private	5
17.	VN Education Committee		
	17.01 VNEC Minutes October 2025		
	For ratification	Confidential	2,3,4
	17.02 VN Education Committee confidential items		
	Confidential items from meeting of 17 December 2025	Confidential	2,3,4
18.	Items for RCVS Committees	Oral report	
19.	Any other business (confidential items)		
20.	VN Vision		

21. **Reflective session**

Annette Amato
Secretary, VN Council
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¹Classifications explained

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Summary	
Meeting	Veterinary Nurses Council
Date	25 February 2026
Title	VN Council Minutes 12 November 2025
Summary	Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 12 November 2025
Decisions required	To approve the unclassified minutes and classified appendix
Attachments	Classified appendix (confidential)
Author	Annette Amato Committee Secretary a.amato@rcvs.org.uk / 020 7202 0713

Classifications		
Document	Classification¹	Rationales²
Paper	Unclassified	n/a
Classified appendix	Confidential	2,3,4

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Veterinary Nurses Council**Minutes of the meeting held online via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 12 November 2025****Members:**

Mrs Belinda Andrews-Jones	Chair
*Mrs Anita Bickerdike	
Ms Jessica Franklin	
Ms Lisa Grainger	
*Mrs Susan Howarth	
Mr Tim Hutchinson	
Dr Zara Kennedy	
*Mrs Katherine Kissick	
Mrs Bethan Pinhey	
Mr Matthew Rendle	
Ms Stephanie Richardson	
*Miss Hannah Welsman	
*Mr Simon Williams	
Mrs Kirsty Young	Vice-Chair

*Denotes absent

In attendance:

Mrs Annette Amato	Committee Secretary
Mr Luke Bishop	Media and Publications Manager (open session only)
Mrs Julie Dugmore	Director of Veterinary Nursing
Mrs Victoria Hedges	VN Examinations Quality Lead
Ms Clare Paget	Registrar (confidential session only)

Guests:

<i>Mr Chris Simpson</i>	<i>Vet Times</i>
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Apologies for absence

1. Apologies for absence were received from Anita Bickerdike, Susan Howarth, Kathy Kissick, Hannah Welsman and Simon Williams.

Declarations of interest

2. There were no new declarations of interest to report.

Obituaries

3. No written obituaries had been received. Council stood to observe a minute's silence for all members of the professions who had passed away since the last meeting.

Minutes of meeting held on 17 September 2025

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2025 were approved as a correct record.

Matters arising

5. There were no matters arising on the previous Minutes.

CEO update

6. The CEO was unable to attend the meeting due to travelling to the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe meeting. The Director of Veterinary Nursing presented an update provided by the CEO.
7. **Competition and Markets Authority (CMA).** The CMA had published its Provisional Decision Report on 15 October, with the deadline for the RCVS response being 14 November. The CMA Working Group had met to discuss this, with Kathy Kissick sitting as the VN Council representative on this group.
8. The remedies did not include anything substantive on veterinary nurses, for example, role and protection of title. This was likely due to the fact that the CMA would not be able to make any of these changes, which could only be done via primary legislation such as a new Veterinary Surgeons or Services Act. The full range of aspects needed to modernise the VN profession were on the radar of Defra, the government department leading on legislative reform.
9. The RCVS response would focus on any 'red flags' there might be in relation to the proposed remedies, not the detail of delivering the monitoring service they were requesting. The response would also cover the governance recommendations. The CMA was likely to publish the final report in February or March 2026, following which there would be six months for an order to be put through parliament. Compliance timeframes would vary by the task and the size of the practice. The CMA work had only related to small animal practice, not large animal, equine or exotics, so this may cause some issues in terms of implementation.

10. **Legislative change.** The Defra sprints had finished, and Defra would now develop a public consultation document based on the findings of that process. Defra had not made any clear statement on timing for this.
11. Council thanked the College's Senior Team for all their work in providing the information and responses required by the CMA.

Veterinary Nurse Education Committee (VNEC)

12. **Meeting held on 23 October 2025.** Council noted the unclassified section of the minutes of the meeting of the VNEC held on 23 October 2025. There were no questions or comments.

Reports from RCVS Committees

Registered Veterinary Nurse Preliminary Investigation Committee (RVN PIC)

13. Council noted the report of the RVN PIC that had been circulated with the agenda.

Standards Committee

14. Matthew Rendle reported on the unclassified item from the October meeting of the Standards Committee. The Committee had reviewed Chapter 13 of the supporting guidance to the Code ('Clinical and client records'). As part of the rolling review of the chapters, the Committee had been asked to consider suggested changes based on the structure and content of the chapter, the content as it related to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and suggestions from the Preliminary Investigation Committee(PIC)/Disciplinary Committee (DC) Liaison Committee. After a full discussion, the Committee had agreed that further amendments were needed to the chapter, in particular, to incorporate guidance that was relevant to all species, a more outcomes-based approach, and recognition within the guidance that notes were also written by RVNs.

Advancement of the Professions Committee (APC)

15. The Chair of the APC, Zara Kennedy, reported on the work of the APC workstreams during the year.
16. **Reasonable Adjustments.** Launched in February, the joint RCVS reasonable adjustments campaign 'Let's Talk Adjustments' had closed at the end of August. The campaign had received positive feedback. Over the course of the campaign, the resources and activities produced had included a series of case studies, key resources and information on disability inclusion, Equality Act guidance and information on reasonable adjustments, a webinar panel discussion on reasonable adjustments with experts from the fields of workplace and clinical psychology and veterinary professionals with lived experience, and the production of expert resources guidance.
17. **Diversity and Inclusion.** A diversity and inclusion networking event had been held at Hardwick Street on 6 November for Diversity and Inclusion Group members, wider affinity group members and other veterinary professionals and students involved in diversity and inclusion work, including members of

the RCVS VN team. There had been presentations from Business Disability Forum and the charity Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, as well as opportunities for networking and discussion.

18. **Black History Month.** A social media campaign had been run in October with the objective of raising awareness of black veterinary professionals and students excelling in their field and increasing knowledge of black history within the veterinary profession.
19. **Veterinary Leadership Development project.** Members of the RCVS VN and Education teams, and experienced external educators from the universities of Bristol and Surrey were collaborating on this project, working to develop a toolkit to be used and adapted by individuals, workplaces, placement providers and educational institutions. The toolkit was currently undergoing review and amendment and should be ready for publication before Christmas or early 2026.
20. **Workforce.** Throughout 2025, a series of eight webinars had been delivered, each centred on revisiting the Workforce Action Plan. The inaugural session had provided an update on progress since the plan's initial publication, while each subsequent webinar focused on one of the seven ambitions outlined within the plan. Courses had been developed in collaboration with the RCVS Academy Team, including a new course titled *Vet Return* to support veterinary professionals preparing to re-enter the profession following a career break, that had been developed to complement the existing *Nurse Return* programme, ensuring a consistent and supportive approach across roles.
21. Collaborating with the Communications Team, two podcast interviews had been recorded for the newly re-launched RCVS Podcast. The first episode, already released, explored research from an RCVS perspective. The second, scheduled for release in December, would address the topic of reasonable adjustments within the veterinary workplace. Additional content was planned for release throughout 2026.
22. **Mind Matters Initiative (MMI).** MMI, in collaboration with the RCVS Academy, had launched two new courses as part of the Culture and Wellbeing category. On Friday 10 October 2025, MMI had celebrated its tenth anniversary, and had hosted its fifth biennial research symposium in Birmingham with the theme of 'Advancing veterinary mental health research: learning from the past, considering the present, and looking to the future'.
23. **Fellowship.** The Fellowship Team had been collaborating with the British Animal Rescue and Trauma Association (BARTA) to translate BARTA's Large Animal Emergency Responder Guide to be applicable to small animals. The guide was due to be published later in the year.

RVN Disciplinary Committee

24. The reports of the VN disciplinary hearings that had taken place since May had been uploaded into the library areas of the VN Council BoardEffect platform, for information.

Communications report

25. The Media and Publications Manager provided an overview of recent VN-related activities in the Comms Department.
26. The candidate information packs for the 2026 RCVS and VN Council elections would be published later that week, opening the nominations period for the VN Council election. The deadline for nominations was 31 January 2026. A case study from Kirsty Young, as an elected VN Council member, had been included in the pack.
27. The nominations period for the College's honours and awards was currently open, with a closing date of 7 January 2026. There had recently been some social media posts and videos featuring Perdi Welsh, the most recent VN Golden Jubilee award winner.
28. There had been one recording for the November podcast, to be focused on the importance of legislative reform and the future of veterinary nursing, that featured a discussion between the DoVN and the Head of Policy and Public Affairs. There would also be a series of articles about legislative reform and the suggestions that the College had made on governance reform, written in conjunction with the British Veterinary Association (BVA) and the British Veterinary Nursing Association (BVNA), and some content for the *Veterinary Nursing Journal*.
29. The results of the RCVS research based on the exit survey data of veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses leaving the Registers was due to be published in the following week.
30. The next Veterinary Nurses Day, due to take place in London in early December, was fully booked and the following event would take place in Edinburgh in May 2026. There were two VN Vision events remaining to take place in 2025, one in Birmingham (12 November) and in Northampton (11 December). The VN educators conference was being re-scheduled for 2026.

Any other business (unclassified)

31. There was no other business.

Date of next meeting

32. The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 25 February 2026. This would be an in-person meeting at the RCVS, Hardwick Street, starting at 10.00am

Summary	
Meeting	Veterinary Nurses Council
Date	25 February 2026
Title	Minutes of meeting of VN Education Committee held on 17 December 2025
Summary	Minutes of the meeting of Veterinary Nurse Education Committee held on 17 December 2025
Decisions required	To approve
Attachments	Classified appendix
Author	Annette Amato Committee Secretary a.amato@rcvs.org.uk / 020 7202 0713

Classifications		
Document	Classification¹	Rationales²
Paper	Unclassified	n/a
Appendix	Confidential	2,3,4

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Veterinary Nurse Education Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2025 held remotely via Teams

Members:	Mrs Sally Betterton	Employer representative
	Mrs Sarah Batt-Williams	HE veterinary nursing provider
	* Mrs Donna Cotton	Employer representative
	Ms Lisa Grainger	VN Council lay member
	Miss Alison Heywood	FE veterinary nursing provider
	* Mrs Susan Howarth	VN Council veterinary nurse (Chair)
	Ms Helen King	FE Independent regulatory expert
	* Miss Georgina Larkin	Student representative – FE sector
	Mrs Sarah Reynolds-Golding	HE independent regulatory expert (Deputy Chair)
	Miss Marie Rippingale	FE veterinary nursing provider
	Miss Gemma Thirkettle	Student representative – HE sector
	* Mrs Perdi Welsh	Post-registration veterinary nurse provider
	Mrs Bethan Pinhey	VN Council non-voting observer

*absent

In attendance:	Mrs Annette Amato	Committee Secretary
	Mrs Jasmine Curtis	Qualifications Assessor
	Mrs Julie Dugmore	Director of Veterinary Nursing (DoVN)
	Miss Abigayle Gomez	Senior Qualifications Officer
	Mrs Victoria Hedges	VN Examinations Quality Lead (VNEQL)
	Ms Tori Thornton	Qualifications Assessor
	Mrs Kirsty Williams	Education Quality Improvement Manager
	Mrs Georgina Winston	Examinations Assessor.

Apologies for absence

1. Apologies for absence were received from Donna Cotton, Susan Howarth, Georgina Larkin and Perdi Welsh. The meeting was chaired by Sarah Reynolds-Golding (Deputy Chair). It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

Declarations of interest

2. Several members reminded the Committee of interests that had been previously declared and noted, however these were not directly related to the matters for decision at the current meeting. Specific interests would be noted at the start of any item where a decision was required.



Minutes of the meeting of the Education Committee (VNEC) 23 October 2025

3. The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2025 as an accurate record.

Matters arising

4. There were no matters arising on the previous minutes.

Operational update

5. The Director of Veterinary Nursing (DoVN) provided an update on recent activities and issues of note since the previous meeting.
6. **Royal Agricultural University (RAU).** RAU had now officially finished provision of its two accredited veterinary nursing degree programmes that had been delivered at Askham Bryan College and Plumpton College. All students following these programmes had either completed their training and been invited to join the register, had accepted an exit award, or had withdrawn from training.
7. **Veterinary Nurses (VN) Day.** Veterinary Nurses Day had been held on 3 December 2025, at Central Hall in London. This event had been very well attended, with 92 newly qualified veterinary nurses being admitted to the College and five nurses who had achieved the Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Nursing collecting their certificate. The Central Hall had proved to be a popular venue, and it was likely that there would be a VN day held there again in December 2026. The next event would be held on 6 May 2026, at the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh.
8. **VN Vision.** VN Vision work was continuing apace, with eight events having been delivered since the beginning of August 2025 and plans well underway for 2026. There would be the usual engagement workshop sessions, and results would be disseminated at the Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons (SPVS) congress, the Veterinary Management Group (VMG) congress and the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) congress.
9. The data from each session had been collected and feedback provided to those who had attended the sessions, to continue their engagement. The data was being coded with a view to creating a theory of change (ToC), assisted by a theory of change consultant. Consultation on the draft ToC was planned for Q3/4 followed by further workshops to develop activities, to meet the outcomes and to develop resources.
10. The paper written by the Director of Veterinary Nursing (DoVN) and the Veterinary Nursing Progression and Development Lead, that included include more detailed information and data collected from the original research work, was due to be published in *The Veterinary Nurse* in December.

11. **Apprenticeship Standard.** There was no further update on the apprenticeship standard, as the outcome of the results of the assessment plan pilot was still awaited.
12. **VN Educator Conference.** It had been necessary to reschedule the next VN Educator Conference. A plan would be put together in the New Year, to allow time to develop a comprehensive and attractive programme.
13. **Nursing Progress Log.** The development of the new NPL had progressed well and the launch of the new NPL was on track for 12 January 2026. There had been a few delays while contact was made with the Higher Education providers, to ensure that all the well-used aspects of the previous NPL were included. The team had developed a guidance booklet with screenshots, that would hopefully be issued very shortly. The new NPL was much more interactive than the previous version.
14. It had originally been hoped that the NPL would launch at the same time as the new RCVS database, but as the database was not quite ready, it had been decided that the NPL should be launched first. Some small changes to the login process would be needed when the database was launched.
15. Concerns were raised by some members about the proposed NPL launch date being so early in the new year, when many colleges would have been closed over the holiday period and may not have had time to familiarise themselves with the guidelines and ask questions. It was therefore agreed that the launch should be delayed by one week, to 19 January 2026. The DoVN would be meeting with the comms team after the VNEC meeting, to discuss the details of the comms around the launch.

Report from RCVS Education Committee

17. Bethan Pinhey reported that she had not been able to attend the meeting of the Education Committee on 25 November but had been provided with an update by the committee secretary. There were two main items of note. There had been disappointment that the RCVS Extra-Mural Studies (EMS) national booking database for veterinary students seeking placements had been discontinued. Although the database had been very popular, there had been issues with some veterinary schools being unable to engage due to IT and legal complexities.
18. The Education Committee had agreed to extend the accreditation for the University of Cambridge's veterinary degree for a further year.

VN pre-registration Examination

19. **Chief Examiner update.** The VN Examinations Quality Lead (VNEQL) reported that interviews had been carried out in October for the Chief Examiner for the OSCE and a new Chief Examiner had been appointed to start with immediate effect. The position of

Chief Examiner for the MCQ examinations, due to start in January 2027, had also been filled.

20. **Membership of Pre-registration Examination Board.** The Committee was provided with a paper setting out a proposal for a new member of the board, together with their CV, skills and experience, and unanimously agreed this appointment. The membership of the board would be reviewed in 2026 when some of the other board members were due to complete their term.

Education Inter Regulatory Group (IRG) statement on use of AI in education

21. The Education Quality Improvement Manager (EQIM) presented this item. In September 2025, a paper had been shared with the Education Committee (EC) providing a draft joint statement from the Education Inter Regulatory Group (IRG) on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education. Since then, the draft had been updated taking into account feedback from the agencies involved in preparing the statement. At its meeting, EC had fed back that there was no comment in the draft statement relating to the environmental impact of the use of AI. This point had been raised at the last meeting, and the consensus had been that although this was a significant issue, it was not felt to be part of the remit of the statement that was focusing on the educational use of AI by staff and students. However, the environmental impact could still be considered by individual agencies.
22. The statement was now in the final draft stages and the agencies that were in agreement were working towards a planned publication date of 19 January 2026. The agencies that had committed to this so far were the Health Care and Professional Council (HCPC), the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC), the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) and the General Optical Council (GOC). The statement was deliberately aimed at a high level so that the standards for education in all agencies could still be applied while providing some clarity for the relevant institutions on the accepted use of AI.
23. For comparison, The European Association for Quality Assurance (QA) in Higher Education (ENQA) had also been doing some work on the use of AI and following a conference earlier this year, had drafted ten principles for the responsible use of AI in external QA. Although these had not been formally published, the ten principles were provided as an attachment to the paper.
24. At the November meeting of EC, there had been approval for the RCVS to be part of the joint publication of the statement. The Committee was asked to review the statement so that any comments could go back to the IRG as well as those from other RCVS committees. Since the paper had been included in the VNEC's agenda papers, there had been a minor change in wording that was read out to the Committee.
25. In response to a query as to whether the Standards should incorporate AI, the EQIM confirmed that this was threaded through the Standards in a few areas, but along the

lines of academic integrity, which encompasses AI. It would be a matter for individual providers to deal with academic misconduct. Once the document had been published, this could be disseminated to the education providers by the RCVS.

26. The Committee had no further comments on the draft statement.

Licence to practise qualifications – Further Education

27. The Qualifications Assessors introduced a paper for each of the following Further Education Institutions, including a brief overview of the qualifications, risk and ongoing monitoring activities, and responded to any questions raised by the Committee. There were no items for decision.

- **Lantra Awards**
- **VetSkill Limited**

Licence to practise qualifications – Higher Education

28. The Qualifications Assessors introduced a paper for each of the following Higher Education Institutions, including a brief overview of the qualifications, risk and ongoing monitoring activities, and responded to any questions raised by the Committee. There were no items for decision.

- **Aberystwyth University**
- **Coventry University**
- **Harper Adams University**
- **Nottingham Trent University**
- **Ulster University**
- **University of Greenwich**
- **University of Portsmouth**
- **Wrexham University**

Post-registration qualifications

29. The Committee was provided with papers setting out the auditing activity and action plans for the following Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Nursing providers:

- **Harper Adams University**
- **University of London (Royal Veterinary College)**

30. The Chair commented that the low number of actions arising from the auditing activity was testament to the understanding from the providers in terms of expectations and

requirements, and the support that had been provided. The Qualifications Team were congratulated on their work around quality monitoring, and the well organised reports submitted to the Committee that were very clear and easy to follow.

Matters for note

Statistical report.

31. The Committee noted the annual overview of student numbers for each academic year (1 July to 30 June) over the last five years. The annual information on student enrolments is published in *RCVS Facts*, as well as information on new registrations via the HE and FE routes, and those educated overseas.

Items for publication

32. Following the discussion earlier in the meeting on the launch date for the new NPL, the Director of Veterinary Nursing confirmed that the launch would be on 19 January 2026, with the publication of the guidance on 5 January 2026.
33. The Committee asked to be sent the paper written by the Director of Veterinary Nursing (DoVN) based on the VN Vision research work, once it had been published.
34. The updated Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Nursing framework would be published by the end of the year.

Any other business

35. There were no items raised.

Date of next meeting

Meeting dates 2026

36. The meeting dates for 2026 were confirmed as follows:
 - Thursday 19 February
 - Tuesday 21 April
 - Thursday 25 June (in person, full day)
 - Wednesday 19 August
 - Wednesday 21 October
 - Tuesday 15 December

Summary	
Meeting	VN Council
Date	25 February 2026
Title	RVN Preliminary Investigation Committee Report to VN Council
Summary	This report sets out the work of the Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC)
Decisions required	None
Attachments	None
Authors	<p>Sandra Neary Professional Conduct Officer / Secretary to the RVN PIC s.neary@rcvs.org.uk / 020 7202 0730</p> <p>Gemma Crossley Head of Professional Conduct g.crossley@rcvs.org.uk / 020 7202 0740</p>

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Paper	Unclassified	N/A

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Registered Veterinary Nurses Preliminary Investigation Committee

Report to VN Council

Introduction

1. Since the last Report to Veterinary Nurses Council, there have been two meetings of the Stage 2 VNPIC which took place on 4 November 2025 and 16 December 2025. The meeting scheduled to take place on 20 January 2026 was cancelled as there were no agenda items. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 10 March 2026.

RVN Concerns received / registered.

2. Between 30 October 2025 and 13 February 2026, there were 19 new concerns registered relating to RVNs. Of these 19 new concerns:
 - All cases are currently under investigation by a Case Manager, Veterinary Nurse, Veterinary surgeon, and a lay member (Stage 1 VNPIC).

RVN Preliminary Investigation Committee

3. One new case has been considered by the Stage 2 VNPIC between 30 October 2025 and 13 February 2026. This case was referred to the RVN Disciplinary Committee. At the Stage 2 VNPIC meeting on 4 November 2025, the Committee considered one ongoing case which it decided to refer to the RVN Disciplinary Committee. At the Stage 2 VNPIC meeting on 16 December 2025, the Committee considered one ongoing case which it decided to close with no further action.

Ongoing Investigations

4. Five concerns are currently under investigation, and these will be returned to the Stage 2 VNPIC 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 Charter Case Committee

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

Referral to Disciplinary Committee

8. Since the last report, two cases have been referred to the RVN Disciplinary Committee.

Disciplinary Hearings

9. Since the last report, one disciplinary hearing has taken place in relation to two veterinary nurses. The hearing took place between 15 and 18 December 2025. The charges related to the first respondent anaesthetising and dispensing prescription-only medicine to the second respondent's dog without supervision, and making entries about the procedure in the records relating to their own dog. The second respondent was charged with allowing the procedure to take place without supervision. The facts in relation to both respondents were found proved. The first respondent was found guilty of disgraceful conduct and was issued with a reprimand. The second respondent was found not guilty of disgraceful conduct.

Summary	
Meeting	Veterinary Nurses Council
Date	25 February 2026
Title	VN Register Report
Summary	<p>This paper provides the following statistics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The number of registered veterinary nurses as at 1 February 2026. Figures for the previous five years are also included. b. Number of removals from the register due to non-payment of annual fee. c. New registrations for the calendar years 2020- 2025 including the qualification route of the new registrants. d. New student enrolments per academic year. e. Number of veterinary nurses commencing a Period of Supervised Practice (PSP).
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'.
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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

Veterinary Nurses Register

Number of registered VNs

	03/02/2021	01/02/2022	01/02/2023	01/02/2024	01/02/2025	01/02/2026
Number of Registered Veterinary Nurses	18,882	20,916	22,010	23,267	24,823	26,292
Number of Nurses removed for non-payment of annual fee (annually – usually carried out in January)	314 <i>(24 restored to register by 04/02/2021)</i>	316 <i>(Removals carried out in February 2022)</i> <i>54 nurses restored within one month of being removed</i>	307 <i>(62 of those removed for non-payment restored to register by 31/01/2023)</i>	426 <i>(109 of those removed for non-payment restored to register by 15/02/2024)</i>	335 <i>(69 of those removed for non-payment restored to register by 15/02/2025)</i>	404 <i>(79 of those removed for non-payment restored to register by 15/02/2026)</i>

Number of admissions to the register (new registrants for the calendar year)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
UK Further Education qualification	483	1727	1058	1045	1262	1386
UK Higher Education qualification	445	478	568	558	565	577
Overseas qualification	41	39	68	81	72	39
Total new registrations	969	2244	1694	1684	1899	2002

Student enrolments for each academic year (from 1 July to 30 June)

Student Enrolments	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
	1860	1910	2339	2320	1979	1809

Period of Supervised Practice (PSP)

Number of nurses commencing a Period of Supervised Practice

(Veterinary Nurses who are returning to the Register after a period of five or more years)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Period of Supervised Practice commenced	21	33	43	36	18	17