

## Registration Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 28 April 2026 at 10:00 am to be held remotely via Microsoft Teams

Agenda Item	Classification	Rationale
<b>1. Welcome &amp; apologies for absence</b>	Oral report Unclassified	n/a
<b>2. Declarations of interest</b>	Oral report Unclassified	n/a
<b>3. Previous meeting minutes</b>		
3a. Minutes of the ad-hoc meeting held on 26 January 2026	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>1,2,3,4</b>
3b. Minutes of the ad-hoc meeting held on 2 April 2026	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>1,2,3,4</b>
<b>4. Matters arising</b>	Oral/written report	
<b>5. Matters for decision</b>		
5a. Revised temporary registration guidance notes and application form	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>1,4</b>
5b. Registration Appeals and Review Rules	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>1</b>
5c. Review of Terms of Reference  <i>Note: as part of an annual housekeeping exercise, the Committee is invited to review its current terms of reference and indicate whether any amendments are required. Any agreed changes will be submitted to RCVS Council in June for approval.</i>	Oral report Unclassified	n/a
<b>6. Matters for discussion</b>		
6a. Registration Statistics Report	Unclassified	n/a
<b>7. Matters for noting</b>		
7a. Closure of TRNOVs scheme	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>2,4</b>
<b>8. Any other business (AOB)</b>	Oral report	
<b>9. Date of the next meeting</b> Tuesday, 20 October 2026 (AM, remote)	Oral report Unclassified	n/a

## Registration Committee – Terms of Reference

1. The Committee shall comprise the President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer of the College, together with two veterinary members of Council, a veterinary nurse member to be appointed by Veterinary Nurse Council (VNC), and a lay member of Council or VNC. The Committee shall be chaired by one of the Officers of the College, who will chair for a three-year term. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Registrar, and Director of Operations shall attend and participate in the meeting but shall be non-voting members.
2. The Committee shall be responsible for activities relating to the registration of veterinary and veterinary nurse members of the College (and, in due course, other Associate members of the College), and will provide and make recommendations to Council and/or VNC on matters relating to registration as appropriate.
3. Responsibilities will include but are not limited to:
  - a. Reviewing and monitoring the implementation of the provisions of the Veterinary Surgeons Act (VSA) 1966 related to the registration of veterinary surgeons; (in conjunction with the Education Committee as appropriate);
  - b. Reviewing and monitoring the implementation of the provisions of the Veterinary Nurse Registration Rules related to the registration of veterinary nurses; (in conjunction with VNC);
  - c. Reviewing and monitoring the policies and procedures relating to registration and publication of the Register;
  - d. Advising in relation to the creation of new categories of Associate members of the RCVS;
  - e. Keeping under review data relating to Find-A-Vet;
  - f. Monitoring registration activities (including trends in Registration for both veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses);
  - g. Monitoring reports from relevant Appeal panels, ie
    - the Examination Appeals Committee;
  - h. Considering applications for Temporary Registration in accordance with the VSA 1966; and,
  - i. Reporting to Council on a regular basis summarising the work that comes under its purview (usually via the minutes of its meetings).

## Summary

Meeting	Registration Committee
Date	28 April 2026
Title	Registration Statistics Report
Summary	An overview of key statistics with commentary on trends or points of interest.
Decisions required	None
Attachments	Annex A - Registration Committee data
Author	Robert Hewes Head of Customer Service <a href="mailto:r.hewes@rcvs.org.uk">r.hewes@rcvs.org.uk</a> 020 7050 1238

## Classifications

Document	Classification <sup>1</sup>	Rationales <sup>2</sup>
Paper & Annex	Unclassified	n/a

## Background

1. The purpose of this regular report is to provide a current picture of the trends across registration data for vets, vet nurses and practice premises, in order to provide the Committee with insight for any future actions, considerations, or changes.
2. Based on feedback, the data is mainly presented by quarter. Graphs have been provided, where possible, however some data sets are too wide ranging, meaning a graph does not represent a good visual representation of the information. A table of figures have been provided for every data set commented on.
3. At the last meeting in October 2025, the period under review included up to Q3 2025. As the committee meetings are twice a year, commentary has in the main, been provided on the last two quarters (Q4 2025 & Q1 2026) compared to the respective quarters of the previous year. There are times when other years or quarters are used for comparative reasons.

## Current picture and commentary

Please view attached annex A for the Registration data

### Vet Registrations

4. The first theme to highlight is that veterinary surgeon (VS) registrations for UK-practising overseas nationals continues to decrease in the quarters being reviewed. There was one less Registration in Q4 2025 compared to Q4 2024. There were thirty-three less registrations in Q1 2026 compared to Q1 2025. We believe this is largely because of visa restrictions and minimum salary requirement for overseas vets which has had an impact on newly graduated overseas nationals applying. Further observations from the Registration team are that there are less overseas nationals eligible to register now that some from European universities cannot apply without taking the statutory membership exam route. There have recently been several applications which have had to be declined as the universities attended were not EAEVE accredited at the time of qualifying, and we do not backdate accreditations like EAEVE do, so this reduces eligibility.
5. There was a decrease of 14 UK graduate registrations in Q4 2025, compared to the same period in 2024. There was a slight increase of two when comparing Q1 2026 to Q1 2025. Overall, UK graduate registrations increased in 2025, by 125 compared to 2024, reflecting a 9% increase. This is due to larger pass lists and the addition of Harper & Keele accounting for a further ninety-one registrations in 2025.

- Continuing with veterinary surgeon registrations, detailed in the annex is a table and graph reflecting each year over the last six calendar years. This reflects an overall increase in veterinary surgeon registrations year on year since 2021.

### **Vet & Practice Premises renewal update**

- The veterinary surgeon renewal deadline was 1 April 2026 and removals from the register will be completed on 1<sup>st</sup> June. There were 38,291 vets eligible for renewal when the renewal notices were issued in March. At the time of drafting this report (17 April) 32,267 vets have paid, 85% completion, compared to 87% on a similar date in 2025. A reminder text and email will be sent on 23 April 2026. A higher fee of £37 is added from 1<sup>st</sup> May if payment has not been received. I will provide an updated figure on the day of the Registration Committee meeting.
- The practice premises renewal (RVPP) deadline was 1 April 2026. There were 2909 practices eligible (not including PSS) for renewal and of those, there were 604 outstanding on 16 April. A reminder letter has been arranged and will be sent on the 20 April to all practices that have not renewed. Removals will be completed in the first week of May for those practices that have failed to make payment and confirm their renewal.

### **Veterinary Nurse Registrations**

- Veterinary nurse UK graduate registrations increased by twelve in Q4 2025 compared to Q4 2024. There was also an increase of 49 when comparing Q1 2026 with Q1 2025. The increase is mainly in diploma qualified vet nurses. The VN registrations team have confirmed that they have received large pass lists from Vet skill and Central Qualifications in Q1 2026.
- Veterinary nurse overseas registrations have decreased by six when comparing Q4 2025 to Q4 2024 and increased by one in Q1 2026 compared to Q1 2025. Overall overseas registrations have decreased by 32 in 2025 compared to 2024, which is a 55% decrease.
- There is likely to be a continued decline in the number of veterinary nurses educated outside the UK entering the RCVS Register. This is primarily due to changes in UK visa policy. The minimum salary threshold for the Skilled Worker visa has been raised to a level that is often unattainable for veterinary nurses. More significantly, the UK Government's tightening of migration rules, effective from 22 July 2025, has made it increasingly challenging for non-graduate professions to qualify for a visa. Veterinary nursing, along with over 180 other occupations, have been removed from the list of eligible roles. This is because veterinary nursing is not officially classified as a graduate profession in the UK, despite courses being delivered at undergraduate level.

As a result, a growing number of overseas applicants are withdrawing from the registration process during the assessment or examination stages, often after investing considerable time and financial resources.

12. Observations from the VN team are that there has been a drop in applicants from EU countries except for republic of Ireland. Looking at applications received so far this year we predict that the numbers of new registrants from overseas will plateau.
13. Continuing with vet nurse registrations, detailed in the annex is a table and graph reflecting each year over the last six calendar years. This reflects an overall increase of vet nurse registrations year on year since 2021.

#### **Veterinary Nurse renewal**

14. The vet nurse renewal was concluded in January 2026. There were 26,370 nurses eligible for renewal, of those 402 were removed for non-payment, 1.5%. This figure reflects a slight increase of vet nurses being removed from the register for non-payment, compared to January 2025, when 335 were removed out of 24,742 eligible for renewal, 1.3%.

#### **Vet Register movements**

15. These statistics show each category of registration monthly. The data is taken on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month, and these tables reflect the movements up to 1 April 2026 and the movements in 2025. The main purpose of providing the information in this report is to show the average increase of vets registered as UK Practising and overall growth across vets registered.

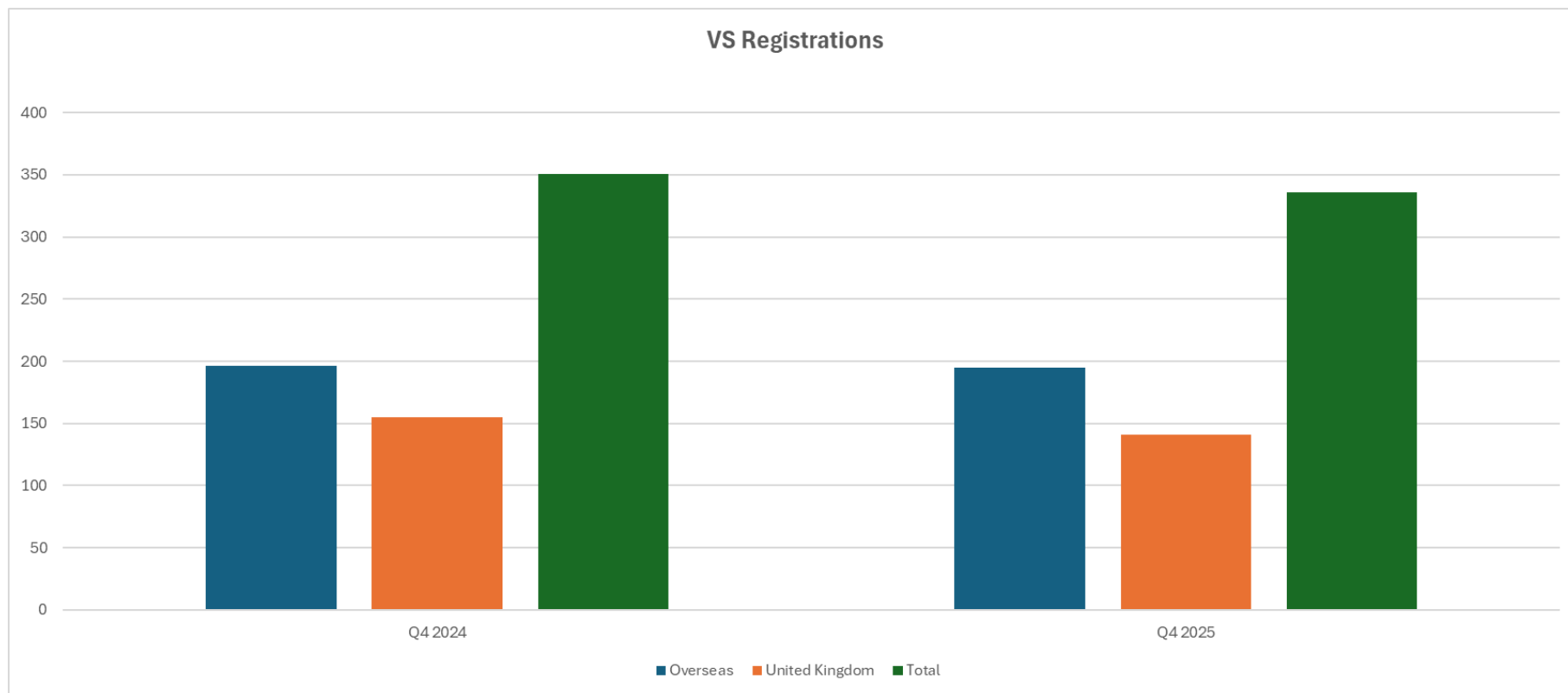
#### **Vet Nurse movements**

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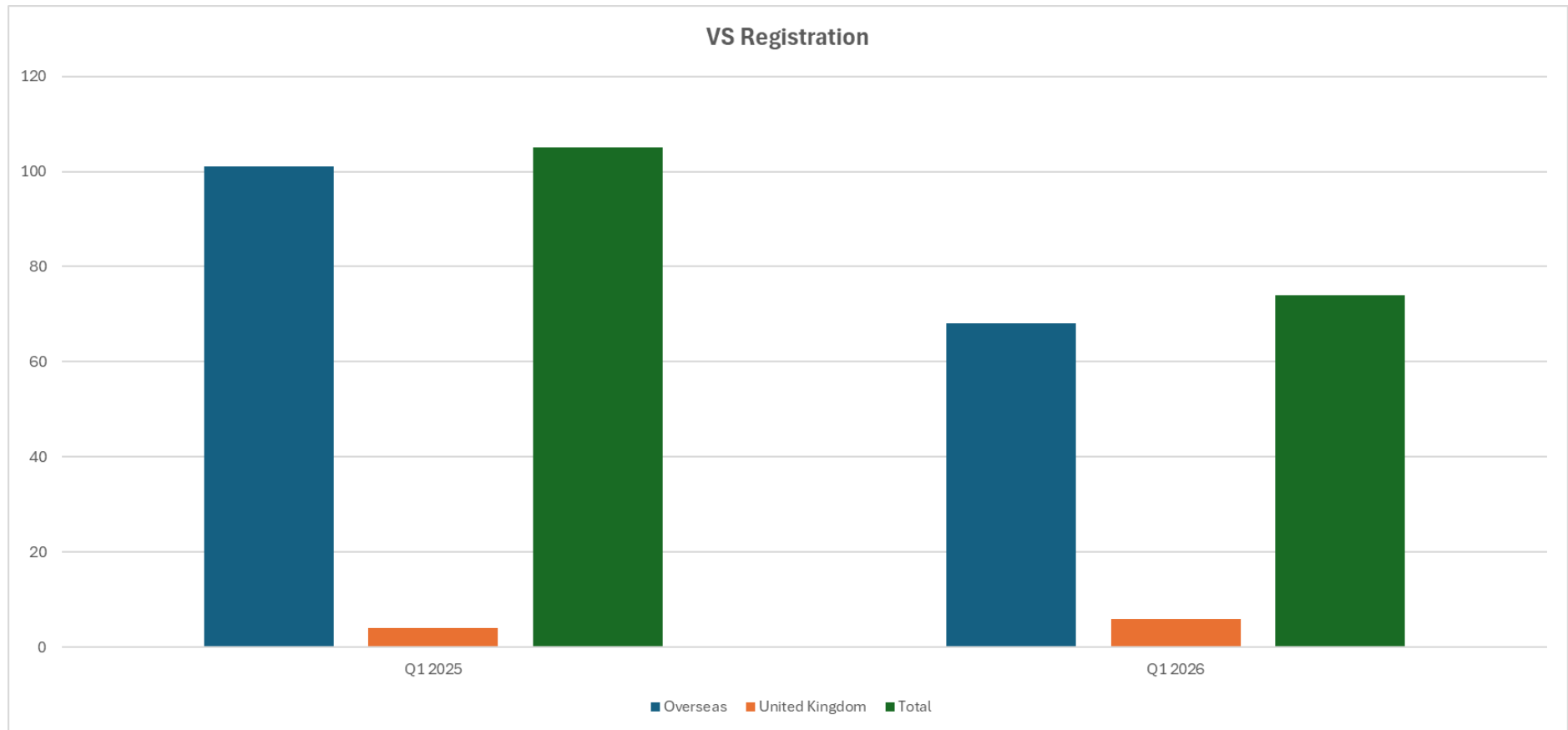
## Annex A – Registration Committee data

### VS Registrations

	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
Overseas	196	195
United Kingdom	155	141
Total	351	336

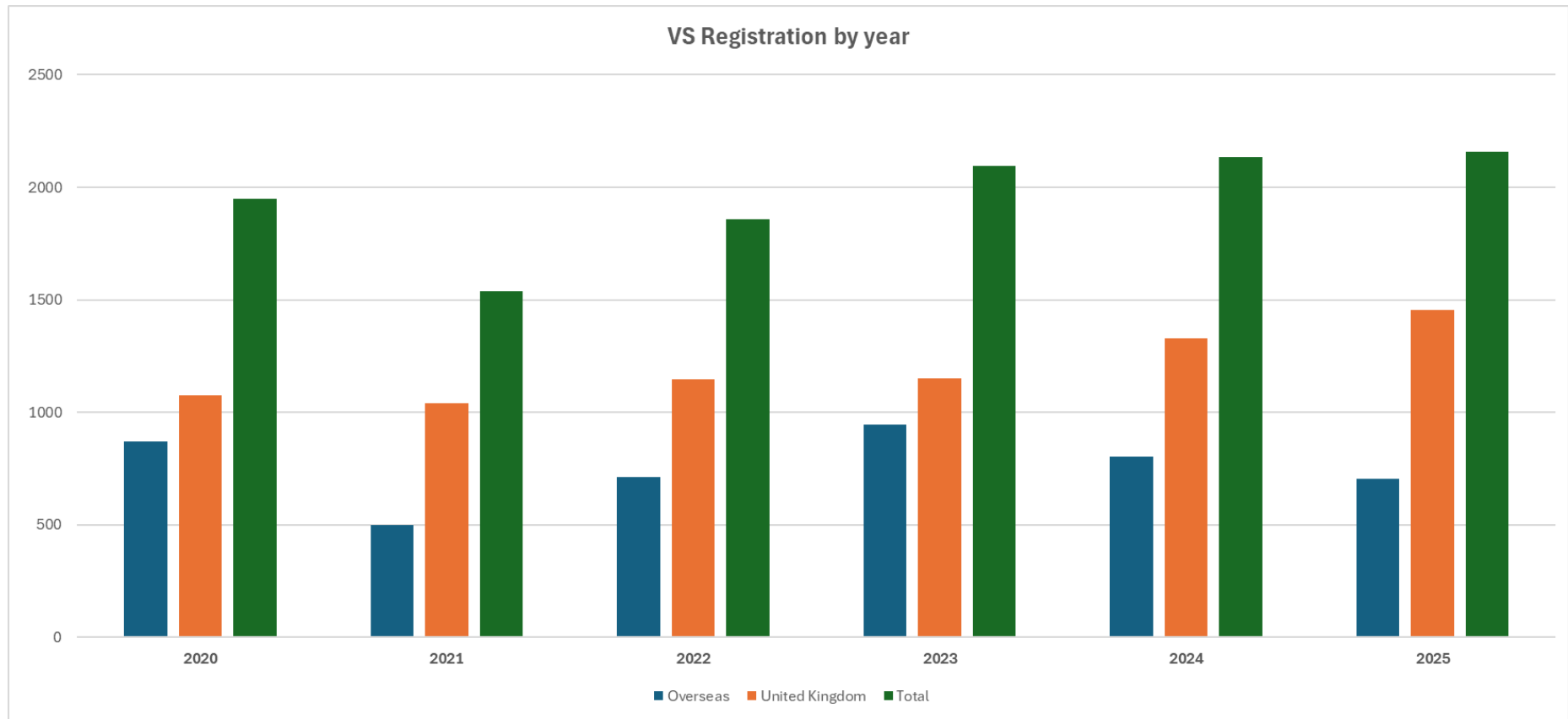


	Q1 2025	Q1 2026
Overseas	101	68
United Kingdom	4	6
Total	105	74



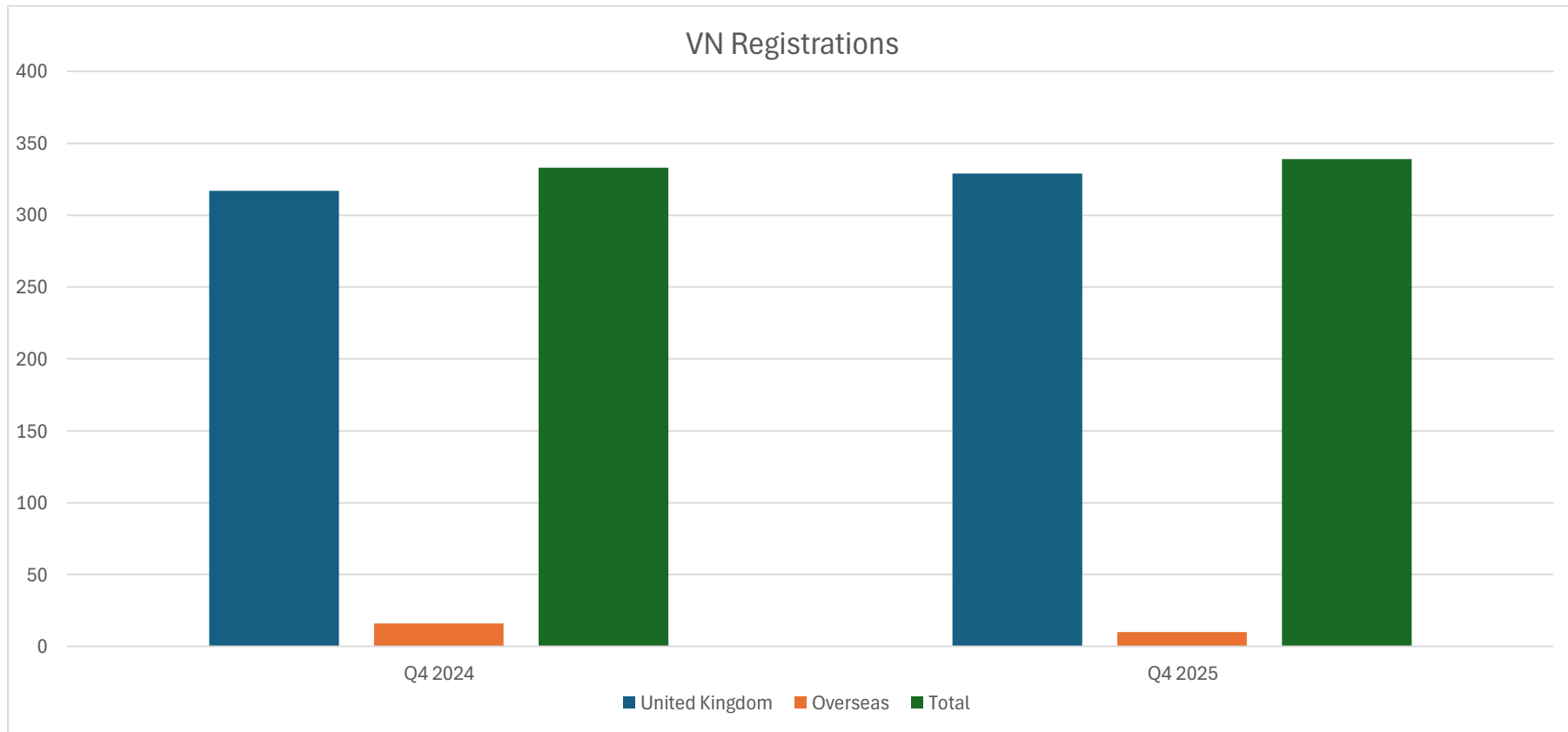
**VS Registration by year**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Overseas	871	499	713	946	805	704
United Kingdom	1076	1040	1145	1149	1330	1455
Total	1947	1539	1858	2095	2135	2159

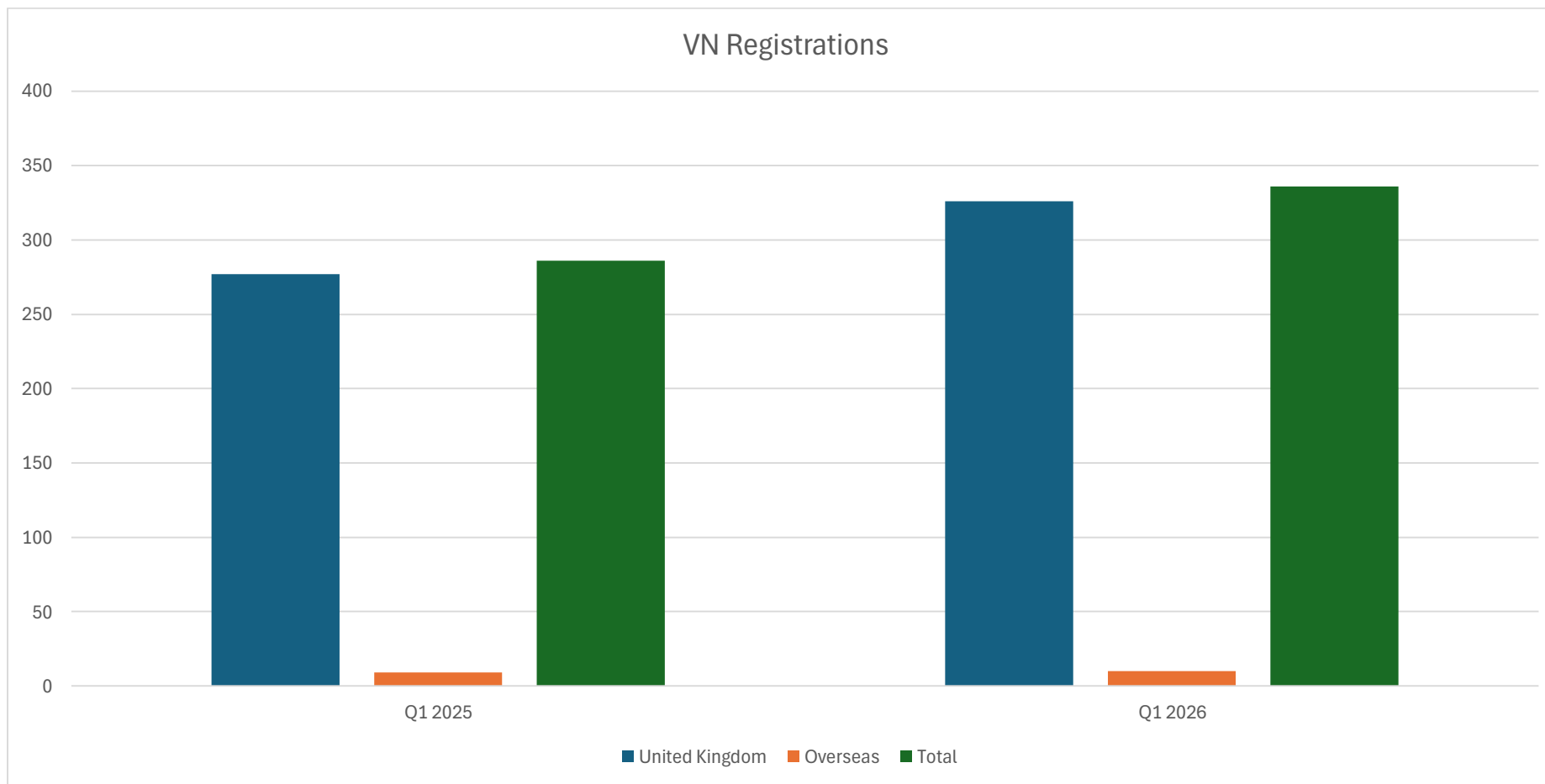


**VN Registrations**

	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
United Kingdom	317	329
Overseas	16	10
Total	333	339

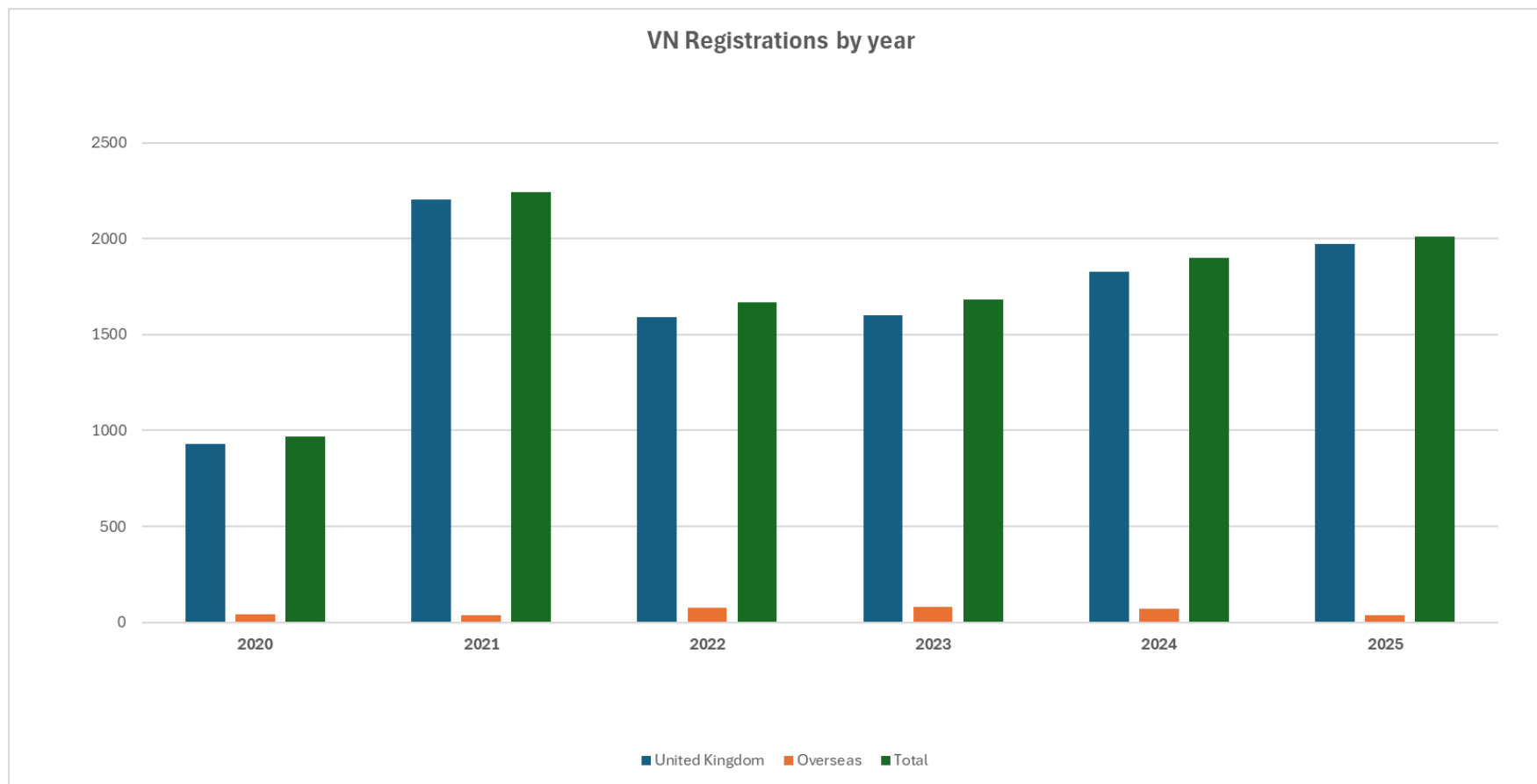


	Q1 2025	Q1 2026
United Kingdom	277	326
Overseas	9	10
Total	286	336



**VN Registration by year**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
United Kingdom	928	2206	1592	1603	1828	1971
Overseas	41	38	77	81	71	39
Total	969	2244	1669	1684	1899	2010



## VS Registration movements

VS Movements 2025	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Yearly Increase
VS - UK Practising	31224	31258	31267	31069	30612	30629	31291	31652	31730	31830	31987	32013	32172	3%
VS - Non Practising	2349	2347	2356	2322	2460	2452	2380	2370	2373	2372	2348	2343	2342	
VS - Non Practising 70+	1470	1461	1442	1276	1390	1391	1394	1390	1388	1387	1385	1386	1385	
VS - Practising outside the UK	3705	3714	3733	3737	3881	3884	3765	3782	3798	3841	3851	3864	3873	
VS - Republic of Ireland	326	325	320	267	269	269	269	269	269	269	269	269	268	
Total	<b>39074</b>	<b>39105</b>	<b>39118</b>	<b>38671</b>	<b>38612</b>	<b>38625</b>	<b>39099</b>	<b>39463</b>	<b>39558</b>	<b>39699</b>	<b>39840</b>	<b>39875</b>	<b>40040</b>	2.50%

VS Movements 2026	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26
VS - UK Practising	32172	32199	32180	31946
VS - Non Practising	2342	2351	2372	2336
VS - Non Practising 70+	1385	1385	1388	1401
VS - Practising outside the UK	3873	3877	3887	3882
VS - Republic of Ireland	268	267	267	267
Total	<b>40040</b>	<b>40079</b>	<b>40094</b>	<b>39832</b>

## VN Registration movements

<b>VN Movements 2025</b>	<b>Jan-25</b>	<b>Feb-25</b>	<b>Mar-25</b>	<b>Apr-25</b>	<b>May-25</b>	<b>Jun-25</b>	<b>Jul-25</b>	<b>Aug-25</b>	<b>Sep-25</b>	<b>Oct-25</b>	<b>Nov-25</b>	<b>Dec-25</b>	<b>Jan-26</b>	<b>Yearly increase</b>
VN - Period of Supervised Practice	11	11	13	11	10	11	14	11	11	12	12	12	12	
VN - Registered Veterinary Nurse	24952	24823	24932	24989	25059	25211	25551	25964	26221	26395	26408	26490	26514	<b>6.20%</b>
VN - Student Veterinary Nurse	6910	6861	6898	6883	6235	6114	5987	5881	5755	5987	6500	6563	6575	
VN - VN Applicant	57	71	29	61	683	710	521	292	193	156	117	106	129	
VN - OS qualified VN	72	81	84	78	71	74	77	75	74	69	75	71	65	
	<b>31930</b>	<b>31766</b>	<b>31872</b>	<b>32022</b>	<b>32058</b>	<b>32120</b>	<b>32150</b>	<b>32223</b>	<b>32254</b>	<b>32619</b>	<b>33112</b>	<b>33242</b>	<b>33295</b>	

<b>VN Movements 2026</b>	<b>Jan-26</b>	<b>Feb-26</b>	<b>Mar-26</b>	<b>Apr-26</b>
VN - Period of Supervised Practice	12	14	15	15
VN - Registered Veterinary Nurse	26514	26293	26450	26545
VN - Student Veterinary Nurse	6575	6521	6479	6521
VN - VN Applicant	129	159	26	132
VN - OS qualified VN	65	67	70	68
	<b>33230</b>	<b>32987</b>	<b>32970</b>	<b>33281</b>