

Registration Appeals and Reviews Rules 2026

Made by the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons on 4 June 2026

Citation

1. These Rules may be cited as the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Registration Appeals and Reviews Rules 2026.

Application

2. These Rules apply to:
 - A review of a refusal of an application made in accordance with sections 3 – 7 of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 for registration on the register of veterinary surgeons
 - An appeal against a refusal of an application for entry to the register of veterinary nurses;
 - An appeal against a refusal to recognise professional qualifications in accordance with the Recognition of Professional Qualifications and Implementation of International Recognition Agreements (Amendment) Regulations 2023;
 - An appeal regarding a failure to notify an applicant for recognition of professional qualifications of the result of the application within four months.

Interpretation

3. In these Rules:
 - “Act” means the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966;
 - “appeal and review form” means the form set out at the end of these Rules;
 - “panel” means a panel of the Committee constituted to hear an appeal or review;
 - “appellant” means a person who has appealed or requested a review under these Rules;
 - “College” means the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons;
 - “Committee” means the Registration Appeals and Reviews Committee;
 - “Council” means the Council of the College;
 - “lay person” means a person who is not a veterinary surgeon or a registered veterinary nurse and has never been entitled to be registered as such;
 - “Registrar” means the Registrar of the College;

- “Regulations” means the Recognition of Professional Qualifications and Implementation of International Recognition Agreements (Amendment) Regulations 2023.

Scope of reviews

4. A person who has been refused registration on the register of veterinary surgeons or veterinary nurses under sections 3,4,5,6 or 7 of the Act may request a review of a decision to refuse registration on one or more of the following grounds:
 - procedural defects in the application process;
 - a material error of fact;
 - failure by the College to consider relevant evidence or information submitted with the original application;
 - failure by the College to follow relevant legislation and guidance.

Scope of appeals

5. A person who holds a relevant qualification from Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Iceland, or a person seeking entry to the register of veterinary nurses may appeal against the following decisions:
 - refusal to recognise the appellant's professional qualifications under Regulation 12(a) of the Regulations;
 - failure to notify the appellant of the decision within four months of the day after the day on which the complete application for recognition of professional qualifications was submitted under Regulation 12(b) of the Regulations
 - refusal of an application for entry to the register of veterinary nurses under the Supplemental Royal Charter of 2015.

Procedure for appealing or requesting a review

6. An appeal or request for review must be made in writing by completing the appeal and review form and sending it to the Registrar within 28 days of notification of refusal of registration or refusal to recognise professional qualifications; or four months after the day on which the complete application for recognition of professional qualifications was submitted if the appellant has not been notified of a recognition decision.
7. The appellant must supply any relevant documents which the appellant wishes to use in support of the appeal or review together with the appeal and review form.
8. On receipt of a properly completed appeal and review form, together with all the documents listed in the form by the appellant, the Registrar will acknowledge receipt of the appeal or request for review.
9. The Registrar will refer the appeal or review to the Committee for a decision as soon as practicable after receiving an appeal or request for review.

Composition of the Committee

10. The Committee will be appointed from time to time by or on behalf of the Council. It will include veterinary surgeons, registered veterinary nurses and lay persons [who may or may not be members of the Council or Veterinary Nurses Council]. Two members of the Committee will be designated by or on behalf of the Council as its Chair and Vice-Chair.

The panel

11. The Committee will establish a panel to hear and decide appeals and reviews on its behalf. The quorum for a panel will be three and will include one person who is not a member of the Council or of the Veterinary Nurses Council. Where the appeal or review relates to recognition of qualifications for, or to inclusion in the register of veterinary surgeons, at least one person must be a veterinary surgeon. Where the appeal relates to inclusion in the register of veterinary nurses, at least one person must be a veterinary nurse. Each panel will include and be chaired by either the Chair or the Vice-Chair of the Committee.
12. A barrister or solicitor appointed for the task will attend each appeal or review to provide legal advice and members of College staff unconnected with the registration decision may also attend to act as secretary and to take notes.
13. A panel will not include any person who has any personal connection with the appellant which might bring that person's independence or impartiality into question, or who may have any other conflict of interest as defined in the College's 'Policy for managing conflicts of interest'.

Procedure for consideration by the panel

14. An appeal or review shall be heard by a panel as soon as possible but in any event within three months of the date of receipt of the completed appeal and review form.
15. The Registrar shall, not less than seven days before the meeting of the panel at which the appeal or review is to be dealt with, send to the members of the panel the papers relating to the appeal or review. The Registrar shall at the same time send the appellant a copy of the papers circulated to the panel with the exception of any legal advice which has been included in the papers relating to the appeal or review.
16. The appellant shall be entitled, either personally and/or through a legal representative (or other friend or advisor) to make oral representations to the panel in support of the written reasons previously provided in the appeal and review form at the meeting to deal with the appeal or review.
17. The panel may require the appellant to supply such additional documents or information as it considers may assist it in reaching its decision on the appeal or review and may require that any such documents which are in a language other than English shall be translated into English in a translation certified as correct by a notary public or authenticated in such other manner as the Committee shall think fit.

18. The panel may adjourn the meeting where any appeal or review is heard pending the supply of additional documents or information under paragraph 17 of these Rules.
19. A panel may:
 - allow the appeal or review on one or more grounds and direct the decision-maker that the appellant's registration decision be granted; or
 - allow the appeal or review on one or more grounds and refer the registration decision back to the original decision-maker for re-consideration; or
 - dismiss the appeal or review on all grounds.
20. The panel shall reach its decision on any appeal or review by majority vote. The decision of the panel will be conclusive for all purposes.
21. The College will send notification of the panel's decision to the appellant within 14 days of the hearing.
22. Except as provided by these Rules, the panel shall regulate its procedure as it thinks fit.

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Appeal and Review Form

To: The Registrar, The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, 1 Hardwick Street, London EC1R 4RB
/ Registrar@rcvs.org.uk

Name of Appellant.....

Address of Appellant.....

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Details of the decision you are appealing against or requesting to review:

(Please provide a copy of any letter notifying you of the registration decision you are appealing against or requesting to review or provide details of the date and author)

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Please state below the reasons why you believe the decision is wrong with reference to the scope of registration appeals and reviews set out in the Rules:

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(Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)

You may make oral submissions when your appeal or review is dealt with, but before it can be considered you must state in writing the reasons why you consider the decision is wrong and provide any documents that support your reasons. Please attach copies of any documents which you wish to use in support of the reasons for your appeal or review and list them below:

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Signature of appellant.....

Date.....