

<b>Summary</b>	
Meeting	Council
Date	6 June 2024
Title	RVN Preliminary Investigation Committee Report to Council
Summary	This report sets out the work of the Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC)
Decisions required	None
Attachments	None
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<b>Classifications</b>		
<b>Document</b>	<b>Classification<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Rationales<sup>2</sup></b>
Paper	Unclassified	n/a

**<sup>1</sup>Classifications explained**

Unclassified	Papers will be published on the internet and recipients may share them and discuss them freely with anyone. This may include papers marked 'Draft'.
Confidential	Temporarily available only to Council Members, non-Council members of the relevant committee, sub-committee, working party or Board and not for dissemination outside that group unless and until the relevant committee or Council has given approval for public discussion, consultation or publication.
Private	The paper includes personal data which should not be disclosed at any time or for any reason, unless the data subject has agreed otherwise. The Chair may, however, indicate after discussion that there are general issues which can be disclosed, for example in reports to committees and Council.

**<sup>2</sup>Classification 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>

# Registered Veterinary Nurses Preliminary Investigation Committee

## Report to Council

### Introduction

1. Since the last Report to Council, there has been two meetings of the RVN Preliminary Investigation Committee, which took place on 5 March and 16 April 2024. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 28 May 2024.

### RVN Concerns received / registered

2. In the period 2 March to 24 May, there were 10 new Concerns relating to RVNs. Of these 10 new Concerns:
  - 1 case closed at Stage 1 PIC.
  - 8 cases are currently under investigation by a Case Manager, Veterinary Nurse, Veterinary surgeon, and a lay member (Stage 1 Preliminary Investigation Committee).
  - 1 case has been referred to Stage 2 PIC.

### RVN Preliminary Investigation Committee

3. Five new cases have been considered by the RVN PIC between 2 March and 24 May. Four cases were referred to external solicitors for formal statements to be taken. One case was referred to the RVN Disciplinary Committee.

### Ongoing Investigations

4. Ten concerns are currently under investigation and will be returned to the RVN PIC for a decision in due course.

### Health Concerns

5. There are currently no RVNs being managed in the context of the RCVS Health Protocol.

### Performance Concerns

6. There are currently no RVNs being managed in the context of the RCVS Performance Protocol.

### Referral to Disciplinary Committee

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

### Disciplinary Hearings

8. Since the last report, four disciplinary hearings have taken place in relation to veterinary nurses. The first hearing took place between 19 and 26 February 2024 and the Disciplinary Committee found the veterinary nurse not guilty of serious professional misconduct. The second hearing took place on 18 and 19 March 2024. The Disciplinary Committee directed that the veterinary nurse should be removed from the Register. The third hearing took place on 26 and 27 March 2024 and related to a veterinary nurse's conviction. The Disciplinary Committee did not consider that the conviction rendered the veterinary nurse unfit to practise. The fourth hearing took place between

3 and 5 April 2024 in relation to a veterinary nurse's conviction. The Disciplinary Committee found that the veterinary nurse's behaviour and conviction brings the veterinary nursing profession into disrepute but after taking all the facts and circumstances into consideration, the DC decided that it would be most appropriate to take no further action against the veterinary nurse.

#### **Operational matters**

9. At the end of June 2024, we will say goodbye to our Chair (Sally Bowden RVN) who has served on the Committee for 8 years. We are very grateful for the contributions Sally has made to the Committee and we will miss her vast experience and knowledge.