

Summary	
Meeting	Council
Date	11 November 2021
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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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'.
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"> 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

Registered Veterinary Nurses Preliminary Investigation Committee

Report to Council

Introduction

1. Since the last Report to Council, there have been three meetings of the RVN Preliminary Investigation Committee, which took place on 29 June, 10 August and 21 September. The meeting scheduled to take place on 2 November was cancelled, as no new cases were referred, and no decisions were required on the ongoing cases. The next scheduled meeting is on 14 December 2021.

RVN Concerns received / registered

2. In the period 26 May 2021 to 2 November 2021, there were 18 new Concerns relating to RVNs. Of these 18 new Concerns:
 - six cases were closed at Stage 1 of the concerns process.
 - 12 are currently under investigation by the Case Examiner Group (a veterinary nurse and lay member on RVN PIC and a Case Manager).

RVN Preliminary Investigation Committee

3. There have been four new cases considered by the RVN PIC between 26 May 2021 and 2 November 2021. One case was referred to external solicitors for formal statements to be taken. One case was closed, and two cases were closed with advice issued to the RVN. At the meeting on 29 June, an ongoing case was considered and closed with advice issued to the RVN.

Ongoing Investigations

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

Health Concerns

5. One RVN is currently 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, the RVN PIC has referred one case to the RVN Disciplinary Committee. A hearing date has yet to be confirmed. A disciplinary hearing took place between 14 and 17 June 2021 in respect of Laura Benson. At the outset of the hearing, Ms Benson admitted to most of the charges against her and the Committee accepted these admissions. The Disciplinary Committee found Ms Benson guilty of serious professional misconduct and decided that the appropriate and proportionate sanction, was to suspend Ms Benson's registration for nine months.

Operational matters

8. Training sessions for all PIC members and staff took place on 30 June and 22 September covering a range of issues and case studies, including conflicts of interest and the use of formal advice to respondents. A further training session is to take place on 19 November.