

Summary	
Meeting	Council
Date	9 November 2023
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 has been three meetings of the RVN Preliminary Investigation Committee, which took place on 27 June, 8 August, and 19 September.

RVN Concerns received / registered

2. In the period 27 May to 27 October, there were 20 new Concerns relating to RVNs. Of these 20 new Concerns:
 - 1 case closed at Stage 1 PIC
 - 15 cases are currently under investigation by a Case Manager, Veterinary Nurse, Veterinary surgeon, and a lay member (Stage 1 Preliminary Investigation Committee)
 - 3 cases have been referred to Stage 2 PIC
 - 1 case was referred to the RVN Disciplinary Committee following consideration by the Stage 2 PIC

RVN Preliminary Investigation Committee

3. Four new cases have been considered by the RVN PIC between 27 May and 27 October. One case was closed with formal advice issued to the Respondent RVN. Two cases were referred to external solicitors for formal statements to be taken. One case was referred to the RVN Disciplinary Committee. During the reporting period, the RVN PIC has considered three ongoing cases. One case was closed, one case was closed with formal advice issued to the Respondent RVN and one case was referred to the RVN Disciplinary Committee.

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. 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 for a formal hearing. The first hearing has been listed to take place on 13 and 14 December 2023 and the dates for the second hearing will be confirmed in due course.

Disciplinary Hearings

8. A disciplinary hearing took place between 31 July and 3 August 2023 in relation to Melanie Herdman. The Disciplinary Committee found that Miss Herdman's actions amounted to serious professional misconduct and decided that Miss Herdman's registration should be suspended for a period of three months.

Operational matters

9. An online training session for PIC members in relation to the new Charter Case Committee took place on 18 July. On 22 August, a face-to-face training afternoon took place for PIC members which covered the new guidance for 'Under care'.
10. The RVN PIC has recently welcomed Kelly Tillet RVN and Jane Downes MRCVS whose terms began in July 2023.