

Veterinary Nurses Council

Meeting to be held on Wednesday 26 February 2025 at 10.00am at the Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, London, W1G 0RN

Agenda	Classification ¹	Rationale ²
1. Apologies for absence	Oral report Unclassified	n/a
2. Declarations of interest	Oral report Unclassified	n/a
3. Obituaries	Oral report Unclassified	n/a
4. Minutes of meeting held on 13 November 2024		
i. Unclassified minutes	Unclassified	n/a
ii. Classified appendix	Confidential	1,2,3,4
5. Matters arising	Oral report	n/a
6. CEO update	Oral report	n/a
Matters for decision by VN Council and reports from Committees (unclassified items)		
7. VN Education Committee		
7.01 Minutes of meeting held on 12 December 2024		
i. Unclassified minutes	Unclassified	n/a
ii. Classified appendix (see item 16)	Confidential	2,3,4
7.02 Meeting held on 12 February 2025	Oral report	n/a
8. Accreditation Standards	Unclassified	n/a
Matters for note		

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|-----|---|--------------|-----|
| 9. | Reports from RCVS Committees | | |
| | 9.01 VN Preliminary Investigation Committee | Unclassified | n/a |
| | 9.02 Advancement of the Professions Committee | Oral report | n/a |
| | 9.03 Standards Committee | Oral report | n/a |
| | 9.04 VN Disciplinary Committee | Oral report | n/a |
| 10. | Communications report | Oral report | n/a |
| 11. | VN Council election 2024 | Oral report | n/a |
| 12. | VN Register report
Registrations, student enrolments, and PSP numbers | Unclassified | n/a |
| 13. | Any other business (unclassified) | | |
| 14. | Date of next meeting
Wednesday 21 May 2025 at 9.30am (remote). | | |

Confidential and private items (closed session)

- | | | | |
|-----|---|--------------|---------|
| 15. | Legislative reform and allied professionals | Oral report | |
| 16. | Risk Register | | |
| | 16.01 Risk Register annual review | Confidential | 1,2,3,4 |
| | 16.02 Items to be added to Risk Register | | |
| 17. | Survey of the professions
Presentation of outcomes data | Presentation | |
| 18. | RCVS Honours and Awards | Private | 5 |
| 19. | VN Education Committee confidential items
Confidential items from meeting of 12 December 2024 | Confidential | 2,3,4 |
| 20. | Reasonable adjustments | Confidential | |
| 21. | Items for RCVS Committees | Oral report | |

22. **Any other business (confidential items)**

23. **Reflective session**

Annette Amato
Secretary, VN Council
0207 202 0713 / a.amato@rcvs.org.uk /

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'.
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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

Summary	
Meeting	Veterinary Nurses Council
Date	26 February 2025
Title	13 November 2024 VN Council Minutes
Summary	Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 13 November 2024
Decisions required	To approve the unclassified minutes and classified appendix
Attachments	Classified appendix (confidential)
Author	Annette Amato Committee Secretary a.amato@rcvs.org.uk / 020 7202 0713

Classifications		
Document	Classification¹	Rationales²
Paper	Unclassified	n/a
Classified appendix	Confidential	2,3,4

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Veterinary Nurses Council

Minutes of the meeting held online via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 13 November 2024

Members:

Mrs Belinda Andrews-Jones	Chair
*Miss Jessica Beckett	
Miss Linda Belton	Officer Team observer (non-voting)
Mrs Anita Bickerdike	
Ms Jessica Franklin	
Ms Lisa Grainger	
Mrs Susan Howarth	Vice-Chair
Mr Tim Hutchinson	
Dr Zara Kennedy	
Mrs Katherine Kissick	
Mr Matthew Rendle	
Ms Stephanie Richardson	
Mr Simon Williams	
*Miss Holly Witchell	
Mrs Kirsty Young	

*Denotes absent

In attendance:

Mrs Annette Amato	Committee Secretary
Mr Luke Bishop	Media and Publications Manager (open session only)
Mrs Julie Dugmore	Director of Veterinary Nursing
Miss Shirley Gibbins	VN Qualifications Lead
Ms Abi Hanson	Media and Publications Officer (open session only)
Mrs Victoria Hedges	VN Examinations Quality Lead
Ms Lizzie Lockett	Chief Executive
Mr Ben Myring	Policy and Public Affairs Manager (open session only)

Guests:

<i>Mr Josh Loeb</i>	<i>BVA Journals (open session only)</i>
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Apologies for absence

1. Apologies for absence were received from Holly Witchell and Jessica Beckett.

Declarations of interest

2. There were no new declarations of interest to report.

Obituaries

3. No written obituaries had been received. Council stood to observe a minute's silence for all members of the professions who had passed away since the last meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2024

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2024 were approved as a correct record. A member clarified a point that had been raised in the confidential section of the minutes and this would be covered later in the meeting.

Matters arising

5. There were no matters arising on the previous minutes.

CEO update

6. The CEO presented a brief oral update on a number of operational matters and recent activities since the last meeting of Veterinary Nurses Council (VNC).
7. Since the previous meeting of VN Council in September, the annual fee renewal process for Registered Veterinary Nurses (RVNs) had been carried out, closing on 1 November.
8. During October the RCVS had celebrated Black History Month. The theme had focused on reclaiming narratives, with some veterinary nurses involved in that campaign.
9. The RCVS Academy had launched a refreshed version of the RVN starting out course, which had been reviewed following feedback from the learners. A new course for student veterinary nurses (RCVS & me) had been launched, supporting students with their professional responsibilities and relationship with the RCVS. The course included information on the role and remit of the College, the meaning of regulation, and signposts to relevant resources. The RCVS was also canvassing views from vets and veterinary nurses for suggestions on useful future course provision.
10. The RCVS would attend the forthcoming London Vet Show and would provide a session around the Survey of the Professions. The next Veterinary Nurses Day would take place in Bristol on 10 December. Other events would be covered in the communications update.
11. The College workload continued to be high, including ongoing push for new legislation and responses to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) in respect of its investigation into veterinary services in the domestic pet market. Other ongoing work included the development of the new database, work on the new RCVS premises, the new strategy plan and recruitment of a new Registrar. Within the next month or so, the CEO intended to arrange an evening or early

morning drop-in session(s) to update RCVS Council members on the strategy development, and the invitation would also be extended to VN Council members.

Veterinary Nurse Education Committee (VNEC)

12. Susan Howarth, Chair of the VNEC, presented the unclassified minutes of the meeting of the VNEC held on 15 October 2024, and highlighted the following items:
13. The revised Standards Framework for Veterinary Nurse Education and Training and accompanying guidance had now been published and those institutions due to undergo accreditation and reaccreditation were now working to those standards.
14. The Committee had reviewed and approved a number of programme changes and had discussed an accreditation status. The VN team had been very busy with quality monitoring activities for the pre-registration and post-registration accredited qualifications.
15. The Committee had noted the report from the VN Pre-registration Examination Board to consider the results of the theory multiple-choice examinations, which had taken place in July. The examination format and delivery were working well.
16. Council ratified the minutes of the VNEC meeting held on 15 October 2024.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

17. Stephanie Richardson reported on the meeting of the VetGDP and CPD Policy and Compliance Subcommittee held on 5 November 2024, which had been the first meeting of this Subcommittee in its new format.
18. The Subcommittee had discussed the CPD requirements, some of the challenges involved and ways in which members of the professions could be encouraged to overcome these challenges. The Subcommittee had discussed and agreed criteria for referral of those who were non-compliant to the Professional Conduct department. The broader strategy would be kept under review. It appeared that reflection continued to be an ongoing difficulty, and the new engagement subcommittee would be considering how to provide encouragement and support for better understanding in this area.
19. Observations and suggestions made by members on the report included:
 - There still seemed to be a culture within the professions that CPD was something that was carried out externally from practice, and that learning in a practice environment was not necessarily viewed as CPD and therefore not logged.
 - It was suggested that the questions in the 1CPD app could be adapted to include questioning about what had been learned rather than what had been done, to encourage reflection.

- It was commented that integrating reflective practice as part of daily life was an issue with CPD across other professions, and that thinking and recording should be integrated into the mindset.
- It was suggested that there may be areas that could be learnt from, such as education frameworks that identify domains and competences, which would be used to carry out a training needs analysis to help support planning.

RCVS and VN Council Governance

20. The Policy and Public Affairs Manager (PPAM) presented a paper summarising the results of the consultation on governance reform that had been presented to RCVS Council and discussed at its meeting on 7 November 2024. Due to the short timeframe between the meetings of RCVS Council and VN Council, it had not been possible to incorporate the decisions made by Council into the paper for VN Council. An oral overview of the decisions would be provided.
21. The consultation had been carried out following discussions at both RCVS and VN Council, at which recommendations to be put forward to government as part of the College's package of legislative reform recommendations had been agreed. The consultation had been held between 10 June and 22 July 2024 and the full results were provided in an annex to the paper. The response rate to the consultation had been satisfactory and it had been helpful to receive a response from the British Veterinary Nursing Association (BVNA) as the veterinary nurses' representative organisation. Overall, there had been more support than opposition for almost all of the recommendations, from all categories of respondent (vets, veterinary nurses and representative organisations) with the exception being the proposal for a move to a fully appointed RCVS Council where there had been a minority of vets in support.
22. There had been confusion or misunderstanding in some cases around the role of the College, with some respondents believing that the RCVS was a representative body like the British Veterinary Association (BVA) or the BVNA, and some issues around the fact that the RCVS is a Royal College that regulates, however, overall the consultation results had been quite supportive of the preliminary recommendations that had been made for the reform of both Councils.
23. RCVS Council had discussed the report in detail and had made decisions on some of the key recommendations. It had been agreed that there should be a switch to a fully appointed system for both Councils and that this should be included with the other recommendations for legislative reform. It had also been agreed that there should be a move towards closer parity between lay people and professional members, although it had not yet been decided what exactly the balance should be.
24. It had also been decided that there should be exploration of retaining an elected element on the Advancement of the Professions Committee (APC), or the formation of a new committee or Council with a similar role. This would oversee 'upstream' regulatory activities, such as the Mind Matters Initiative and the Fellowship, that were not core regulatory functions but were intended to create professionals that are fit for practise.

25. Some decisions had been deferred, and further work would be carried out on the impact of the different recommendations and how these interrelated with each other, for example, the size of Council and the way in which future allied professions would be included on Council.
26. In summary, good progress had been made and further details would be brought to VN Council for discussion at future meetings. As had been noted previously, although VN Council was not rooted in legislation, it was suggested that decisions on its future structure should be deferred until decisions had been made as to the composition of RCVS Council. It was likely that there would be a working party to consider some of the outstanding questions, probably in the first half of 2025. Information would be fed back to VN Council, particularly in relation to issues affecting veterinary nurses.
27. Council thanked the PPAM for the clear and detailed summary. Comments made by members in discussion included:
- A suggestion that it would be helpful for future discussion papers to include diagrams showing the potential structure and how it would fit together, to illustrate the different possible scenarios.
 - Whilst it was clear that there had been much work carried out in raising awareness about the role of the College, due to the apparent lack of understanding regarding the role of the College in terms of regulation rather than representation, further communications around this subject would be helpful as decisions continued to be made and finalised.
 - It was commented that having a higher level board, above a veterinary surgeons' council, could help the balance and parity across the professions, and may help allay the fears about introducing more lay people and paraprofessionals and diluting the professional representation.
 - It was suggested that the situation in relation to allied professions may have changed since the original work on governance reform had been carried out, and it may be opportune to reconsider what could be done to ensure that veterinary nurses had more parity within the Royal College. It was felt that it would be important for the working party to communicate to veterinary nurses that the inclusion of paraprofessionals would not demote the position of the veterinary nursing profession, which it had taken a long time to achieve. The relationship and synergy between the two veterinary professions was unique.
28. The PPAM agreed to take these comments on board in future discussions and suggested that it might be helpful to summarise and recirculate the work of the previous working party, which had looked at associates of the College, allied professionals and the legislative underpinning. It was important to stress that regulating additional groups did not diminish the status of veterinary nurses, any more than regulating veterinary nurses had diminished the status of vets, and the communications should make this clear. It was also essential to make very clear that regulation of any groups by the Royal College would be to ensure that their standards were properly set, not to represent particular groups. The role was to ensure animal health and welfare and protection of the public interest. There is guidance for the government and others on the threshold that should

be met before statutory regulation comes into play. It was reiterated that the role of the College would be to regulate different groups in the public interest, not to represent them. The CEO endorsed these comments and added that although some of the additional groups to be regulated may be small, it was the potential impact of something going wrong that needed to be borne in mind.

29. In response to a concern about how deferring of some decisions might affect the opportunity to seek further feedback and engagement, the PPAM responded that it was likely that decisions would be broadly in line with the preliminary recommendations that were made, that had been supported by the consultation. The decisions yet to be taken were more in relation to the detail and the various interactions rather than the broad principles. If a different model was to be proposed, then further consultation on the final package could be considered.

Reports from RCVS Committees

Registered Veterinary Nurse Preliminary Investigation Committee (RVN PIC)

30. Council noted the report of the work of the RVN PIC since September 2024 that had been circulated with the agenda.

Standards Committee

31. There had been two meetings of the Standards Committee since the last meeting of VN Council and the unclassified minutes were available on the [RCVS website](#). Matthew Rendle drew attention to items of particular interest from these meetings:
- The Committee had been presented with a review of Chapter 8 (euthanasia) in the supporting guidance to the Code of Professional Conduct. This review was taking place as part of a rolling review of the supporting guidance chapters to make sure they were still relevant, accessible, readable and useful. That had been both interesting and also a fundamental aspect of practice life, as well as the welfare of the professions and clients.
 - The Committee had considered how it currently receives Subcommittee reports and it had been agreed that an annual report from each Subcommittee, with updates of any significant news throughout the year, would be preferred, in order to streamline the meetings.

Advancement of the Professions Committee (APC)

32. The Chair reported that the APC had met on 2 October and had reviewed the current work of the Committee.

Communications report

33. The Media and Publications Manager provided an overview of recent VN-related activities in the Comms Department.

34. **RCVS honours and awards.** The deadline date for submissions of nominations for RCVS honours and awards would be Friday 13 December 2024. So far there had been a number of social media posts including an interview with Andrea Jeffery, the most recent VN Golden Jubilee Award winner. Council was reminded that VNs were eligible to be nominated for various other RCVS awards as well as the Golden Jubilee award, including the Compassion Award, Impact Award, International Award, Inspiration Award and Student Community Award. Council members were encouraged to spread the word about these awards.
35. **Council elections.** The election nomination period for VN and RCVS Councils had recently opened. The deadline date for nominations was 31 January 2025, with elections taking place from March 2025. The candidate information pack and nomination forms were now available on the website and there would be further publicity shortly, so Council members were encouraged to look out for this and share with their networks.
36. **Events.** Forthcoming VN specific events and activities included:
- A live online webinar from the RCVS Academy team on 25 November, for VN external examiners.
 - A VN Vision event on 16 November at the Lynwood School of Veterinary Nursing in Dorset.
 - Veterinary Nurses Day in Bristol on 10 December, with 118 veterinary nurses expected for the morning session and 162 for the afternoon session, plus guests.
37. It was commented that there had been many positive conversations about the VN Vision events, and veterinary nurses had found these an excellent opportunity to put forward their ideas directly to the RCVS. It was hoped that these types of events could continue in some form in the future. The Chair and the Director of Veterinary Nursing both added that it had been a really positive experience, and there would be many ideas coming out of each event. The RCVS would certainly continue to engage with the profession, going forward.

Any other business (unclassified)

38. There was no other business.

Date of next meeting

39. The next meeting of VN Council would take place on Wednesday 26 February 2025. This would be an in-person meeting, to be held at the Royal College of Nursing.

Summary	
Meeting	Veterinary Nurses Council
Date	26 February 2025
Title	Minutes of meeting of VN Education Committee held on 12 December 2024
Summary	Minutes of the meeting of Veterinary Nurse Education Committee held on 12 December 2024
Decisions required	To approve
Attachments	Classified appendix
Author	Annette Amato Committee Secretary a.amato@rcvs.org.uk / 020 7202 0713

Classifications		
Document	Classification¹	Rationales²
Paper	Unclassified	n/a
Appendix	Confidential	2,3,4

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Veterinary Nurse Education Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2024 held remotely via Teams

Members:	Mrs Sarah Batt-Williams	HE veterinary nursing provider
	* Mrs Donna Cotton	Employer representative
	Ms Lisa Grainger	VN Council lay member
	Mrs Sarah Holman	FE veterinary nursing provider
	Mrs Susan Howarth	VN Council veterinary nurse (Chair)
	Ms Helen King	FE Independent regulatory expert
	Miss Georgina Larkin	Student representative – FE sector
	Miss Betsy Malamah-Thomas	Employer representative
	Mrs Sarah Reynolds-Golding	HE independent regulatory expert
	Miss Marie Rippingale	FE veterinary nursing provider
	Miss Gemma Thirkettle	Student representative – HE sector
	Mrs Perdi Welsh	Post-registration veterinary nurse provider

*absent

In attendance:	Mrs Annette Amato	Committee Secretary
	Mrs Justine Armour	Examinations Assessor
	Miss Lucy Blampied	Qualifications Officer
	Mrs Julie Dugmore	Director of Veterinary Nursing
	Mrs Sophie Geake	Qualifications Assessor
	Miss Abigayle Gomez	Senior Qualifications Officer
	Mrs Victoria Hedges	VN Examinations Quality Lead (VNEQL)
	Ms Tori Thornton	Qualifications Assessor
	Mr Simon Wiklund	Head of Legal Services/Assistant Registrar

Apologies for absence

1. Apologies for absence were received from Donna Cotton.

Declarations of interest

2. The following declarations of interest were made, relevant to items on the agenda:
 - Marie Rippingale clarified that she remains involved in the delivery of Central Qualifications veterinary nursing qualification but is no longer an examiner for that Awarding Organisation.
 - Susan Howarth noted that the team leader at Ulster University was a former colleague, three years previously.

Minutes of the meeting of the Education Committee (VNEC) 15 October 2024

3. The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2024 as a correct record.

Matters arising

4. There were no matters arising from the previous minutes other than those which were covered throughout the agenda.

Operational update

5. The Director of Veterinary Nursing (DoVN) provided an update on recent activities and issues of note:
6. **Veterinary Nursing team.** Sophie Geake had joined the team as a qualifications assessor on 2 December 2024, and the team was now back to strength after an absence from an extended sick leave.
7. **Student enrolments.** Since 1 August 2024, 1269 student enrolments had been received, of which 815 had been processed, with the remaining cohorts awaiting payment.
8. **Applications for registration.** There had been no applications requiring consideration of reduced clinical hours from students who had completed their training, since the previous meeting of the committee.
9. **Apprenticeship.** The Apprenticeship Standards review was well underway. There were two groups looking at various parts of the standard and endpoint assessment. The first meeting had been held in October, and further meetings of the group were scheduled for 9 and 10 January 2025. The DoVN confirmed that both she and the VN Qualifications Lead would be included in the group, to ensure adherence to regulation requirements.
10. It was confirmed, in response to a query about the apprenticeship funding, that the increase from 15K to 17K had been approved and introduced with effect from September 2024. The current review taking place was just for the Standard and the End Point Assessment. The group had been mindful that the Day One Skills would be reviewed at the end of 2025 and were trying to anticipate these changes and take likely changes into account.
11. It was also confirmed that the level of the Standard was not under review, but the DoVN would check this.
12. **Veterinary Nurses Day.** VN Day at Bristol Beacon on 10 December had been successful. It was reported that 126 new nurses took their declaration and there had been eight nurses who had achieved the Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Nursing.

13. **Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Nursing (CertAVN) Standards.** The review of the CertAVN Standards had started, and a meeting of the group would take place on 17 December to review any changes and amendments.
14. The Chair reported that the RCVS Education Committee had met in November and would be having a discussion, as were VN Education Committee, about the reasonable adjustment policy for the examinations.

Matters for decision

Licence to practise qualifications

See confidential appendix paras. 1 – 14

Matters for discussion

Reasonable adjustment in VN Education

See confidential appendix paras. 15 - 23

Matters for note - Licence to practise qualifications

15. **Programme changes**
Reports were provided on small programme changes which had been agreed for the following:
 - University of Portsmouth
 - University of Greenwich
 - University of Glasgow
 - VetSkill
16. **Pre-accreditation support**
The paper outlining the current situation was noted.
17. **Action plan monitoring accreditation/ reaccreditation**
Brief oral updates were provided on the following:
 - Aberystwyth University
 - Coventry University
18. **Quality Monitoring activities**

The Committee was provided with papers detailing the quality monitoring activities and the actions which had been identified, for the following Accredited Education Institutions (AEIs) as well as the risk ratings:
 - Wrexham University
 - Lantra Awards
 - University of Portsmouth

- University of Glasgow

19. **Action plan quality monitoring**

Oral updates were provided on the monitoring of action plans and future planned actions for the following AElS:

- Harper Adams University
- Hartpury University
- University of Bristol
- VetSkill
- Lantra Awards

VN Pre-Registration Examination Board

20. The report of the meeting of the Pre-registration examination board to consider the results of the pre-registration theory examination was noted.

Statistical report

21. The Committee noted statistics on student enrolments for each academic year (1 July to 30 June) over the last five years. The annual information on student enrolments would be published in *RCVS Facts*, as well as information on new registrations via the HE and FE routes, and those educated overseas.

Items for publication

22. There were no items identified from the meeting for publication.

Any other business

23. No other business was raised.

Meeting dates 2025

- 24.
- Wednesday 12 February
 - Wednesday 23 April
 - Thursday 26 June (in person, full day meeting)
 - Tuesday 19 August
 - Tuesday 21 October
 - Wednesday 17 December

Summary	
Meeting	Veterinary Nurses Council
Date	26 February 2025
Title	Accreditation Standards
Summary	<p>VN Council is presented with a proposed addition to the existing Standards.</p> <p>The new requirement will allow for additional safeguards when delivery sites are transferring between Accredited Education Institutions (AEIs), and ensure any issues are clearly communicated prior to approval.</p> <p>VNEC approved the proposed wording at its meeting on 12 February 2025.</p>
Decisions required	VN Council to ratify the revised Standards Framework for Veterinary Nurse Education and Training.
Attachments	None
Author	Shirley Gibbins Qualifications Lead s.gibbins@rcvs.org.uk

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Accreditation Standards

Background

1. In recent years there has been a significant number of FE delivery sites transferring between Awarding Organisations (AOs).
2. It has been identified that this may pose a certain level of risk, if the delivery site is choosing to move due to sanctions imposed by its existing AO and is thus moving to avoid the impact of the sanctions.
3. AOs have highlighted to the RCVS that they have little to no opportunity to identify these risks prior to delivery site approval.

Current position

4. The Qualifications Lead sought advice from the Governance Manager and the Head of Legal Services (Standards) as to how the AOs could best be supported with these processes.
5. Various suggestions were considered, with a mindfulness of GDPR, confidentiality and the data that the RCVS has access to.
6. Ofqual was also contacted, to ascertain whether this information falls within the General Conditions of Recognition; there is some detail included, but this will not always cover the level of detail that the AOs consider necessary.
7. The solution that best meets the needs of the AOs, without compromising the duty of the RCVS, is to include a new Requirement into Standard 2 of the RCVS Standards Framework for Veterinary Nurse Education and Training.
8. The proposed wording for this new requirement, which has been approved by both Legal and Governance, is as follows:

2.17 Where a delivery site chooses to transfer Accredited Education Institution (AEI), there must be effective communication between the AEIs regarding the risk status of the delivery site, to include any sanctions that may be in place, or any specific areas of concern.

Guidance:

For higher education institutions, this will likely be in the form of a change to the partnership agreement of a validating institution. For Awarding Organisations, this will likely occur when a delivery site chooses to transfer to a different Awarding Organisation. Awarding Organisations must also comply with the Ofqual General Conditions of Recognition in this regard, particularly in relation to issues of malpractice or maladministration. When a delivery site intends to transfer to a new AEI, the new AEI must contact the existing AEI to ascertain any existing or ongoing areas of concern. Equally, the existing AEI is expected to be forthcoming in its communications and provide this detail as required.'

Evidence:

- 2.17a. Communication examples relating to transferring delivery sites.
- 2.17b. Communication examples of changing partnership agreements.
- 2.17c. Student transfer planning and processes.

Discussion/ issues

- 9. This proposal has been discussed with the AOs; they provided some advice for the wording whilst the specifics were being agreed.
- 10. The proposed new requirement will be relevant to both AOs and higher education institutions, as is the case with all of the RCVS Standards.

Financial issues / PR implications

- 11. The proposed new requirements should not contravene any governance or legal requirements.
- 12. This requested was initiated by the AOs, and should, therefore, be welcomed.
- 13. This proposal offers an opportunity for stakeholders to have confidence in RCVS feedback mechanisms, demonstrating a positive change following feedback provided.
- 14. There are no financial implications for this update.

Conclusions

- 15. The VN Team believes that these changes will allow for a more transparent and robust approval process for delivery sites moving between AOs.

16. Veterinary Nurse Education Committee approved the wording for this additional requirement at its meeting on 12 February 2025.

Recommendations

17. VN Council to ratify the revised Standards Framework for Veterinary Nurse Education and Training.

Summary	
Meeting	Veterinary Nurses Council
Date	26 February 2025
Title	RVN Preliminary Investigation Committee Report to VN Council
Summary	This report sets out the work of the Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC)
Decisions required	None
Attachments	None
Authors	<p>Sandra Neary Professional Conduct Officer / Secretary to the RVN PIC s.neary@rcvs.org.uk / 020 7202 0730</p> <p>Gemma Crossley Head of Professional Conduct g.crossley@rcvs.org.uk / 020 7202 0740</p>

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 VN Council

Introduction

1. Since the last Report to Veterinary Nurses Council, there has been three meetings of the Stage 2 VNPIC which took place on 12 November 2024, 17 December 2024 and 28 January 2025. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 11 March 2025.

RVN Concerns received / registered.

2. Between 1 November 2024 and 4 February 2025, there were 13 new concerns registered in relation to RVNs. Of these 13 new concerns:
 - One case was closed by the Stage 1 VNPIC.
 - Twelve cases are currently under investigation by the Stage 1 VNPIC

RVN Preliminary Investigation Committee

3. There have been five new cases considered by the Stage 2 VNPIC between 1 November 2024 and 4 February 2025. Of these, one case was referred to external solicitors for formal statements to be taken, three cases were referred to the Charter Case Committee, and one case was referred to the VN Disciplinary Committee. Four ongoing cases (involving one RVN) were referred to the VN Disciplinary Committee.

Ongoing Investigations

4. Seven concerns involving six veterinary nurses are currently under investigation by the Stage 2 VNPIC, and these will be returned to the Committee 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, five cases (involving two RVNs) have been referred to the VN Disciplinary Committee. The hearing dates will be confirmed in due course.

Disciplinary Hearings

8. Since the last report, one disciplinary hearing has taken place in relation to a veterinary nurse. The charge related to the Respondent's conviction for the theft and attempted theft of animals. The Disciplinary Committee found that the conviction, set out in the charge, rendered the

Respondent unfit to practise and decided to impose a reprimand and warning as to their future conduct.

Summary	
Meeting	Veterinary Nurses Council
Date	26 February 2025
Title	VN Register Report
Summary	<p>This paper provides the following statistics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The number of registered veterinary nurses as at 1 February 2025. Figures for the previous five years are also included. b. Number of removals from the register due to non-payment of annual fee. c. New registrations for the calendar years 2019- 2024 including the qualification route of the new registrants. d. New student enrolments per academic year. e. Number of veterinary nurses commencing a Period of Supervised Practice (PSP).
Decisions required	None
Attachments	None
Author	<p>Annette Amato</p> <p>Secretary to Veterinary Nurses Council</p> <p>020 7202 0713</p> <p>a.amato@rcvs.org.uk</p>

Classifications		
Document	Classification¹	Rationales²
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Veterinary Nurses Register

Number of registered VNs

	04/02/2020	03/02/2021	01/02/2022	01/02/2023	01/02/2024	01/02/2025
Number of Registered Veterinary Nurses	18,246	18,882	20,916	22,010	23,267	24,823
Number of Nurses removed for non-payment of annual fee (annually – usually carried out in January)	409 <i>(84 restored to register by 04/02/2020)</i>	314 <i>(24 restored to register by 04/02/2021)</i>	316 <i>(Removals carried out in February 2022) 54 nurses restored within one month of being removed</i>	307 <i>(62 of those removed for non-payment restored to register by 31/01/2023)</i>	426 <i>(109 of those removed for non-payment restored to register by 15/02/2024)</i>	335 <i>(69 of those removed for non-payment restored to register by 15/02/2025)</i>

Number of admissions to the register (new registrants for the calendar year)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
UK Further Education qualification	1081	483	1727	1058	1045	1262
UK Higher Education qualification	503	445	478	568	558	565
Overseas qualification	62	41	39	68	81	72
Total new registrations	1646	969	2244	1694	1684	1899

Student enrolments for each academic year (from 1 July to 30 June)

Student Enrolments	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
	2109	1860	1910	2339	2320	1979

Period of Supervised Practice (PSP)

Number of nurses commencing a Period of Supervised Practice

(Veterinary Nurses who are returning to the Register after a period of five or more years)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Period of Supervised Practice commenced	34	21	33	43	36	18