

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC), Disciplinary Committee (DC) and RVN Preliminary Investigation Committee (RVN PIC) Committee vacancies Veterinary Surgeon, and Lay Member vacancies

The RCVS was established in 1844 by Royal Charter to be the governing body of the veterinary profession with the purpose of safeguarding the interests of the public and animals by ensuring that only those registered with the RCVS practise veterinary surgery. The RCVS aims to enhance society through improved animal health and welfare and does so by setting, upholding and advancing the educational, ethical and clinical standards of veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses.

One of the functions of the RCVS is to have in place a robust investigation and disciplinary mechanism if there are concerns that the work of a veterinary surgeon or RVN falls short of the standards expected by the profession and the public. The statutory functions are set out in the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, and Supplemental Royal Charter 2015. This is done through two statutory committees: the Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC) and the Disciplinary Committee (DC) and their counterparts for RVNs, the RVN PIC and RVN DC.

The task of a PIC is to investigate any case in which it is alleged that a veterinary surgeon /RVN is liable to be removed from the register of veterinary surgeons/ RVNs, or suspended from the register for a period, by reason of serious professional misconduct. After investigation, the PIC decides whether to refer the case to a DC. If a case is referred, the DC hears the evidence, determines the facts and, amongst other sanctions, has power to direct that the name of the person concerned should be removed from the register or that registration should be suspended for a period of time. DC also deals with applications for restoration to the register following removal.

The RCVS are looking to appoint for the following positions:

Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC) - one veterinary surgeon, one lay member (2024), three reserve veterinary surgeons plus one reserve lay.

Registered Veterinary Nurse (RV) PIC – one veterinary surgeon.

Disciplinary Committee (DC) – four veterinary surgeons, two lay members, one reserve veterinary surgeon plus one reserve lay.

All committee members must:

- be committed to the seven principles of public life,
- understand the importance of maintaining public confidence in the regulation of the veterinary professions,
- (for lay members) have a general understanding and genuine interest in the work of the veterinary professions and animal health and welfare,
- be able to grasp detail and contribute to objective decision-making by exercising sound judgment,
- be able to establish and maintain excellent working relationships with a changing group of colleagues from a range of backgrounds and experiences,
- have good oral and written communication skills,
- be able to manage time effectively and,
- be currently registered, and in active practice and generally, a minimum of 5 years' experience will be expected.

Remuneration: Currently loss of earnings is set at £325 per day. Expenses will be covered for these roles.

Closing date: 13 April 4pm.

Interviews: Thewlis Graham Associates will interview candidates from 9 May by video call. The RCVS Independent Selection Panel will interview shortlisted candidates from 5 June by video call.

Please apply by visiting www.thewlisgraham.com/assignment-briefings and following the instructions in the candidate brief quoting reference AA0202. For a confidential conversation with Sarah Thewlis or for any other information please email rcvs@thewlisgraham.com.