

Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC) one Lay Member (2025), and one reserve Lay Member and one Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) for the Charter Case Committee (CCC) 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 Charter Case committee (CCC) is now established also under the RCVS Charter powers. This Committee may issue public or private warnings in cases where the threshold for referral to a DC has been crossed, but certain criteria have been met such that the matter may be dealt with in a more proportionate way, provided always that the welfare of animals and the public interest are protected.

The RCVS are looking to appoint for the following positions:

Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC) one lay member (2025), and one reserve lay member.
Charter Case Committee (CCC) one RVN.

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 £352 per day. Expenses will be covered for these roles.

Closing date: 17 March at 12 noon

Interviews: Thewlis Graham Associates will interview candidates from W/C 7 April by video call. The RCVS Independent Selection Panel will interview shortlisted candidates from W/C 19 May.

For further information and details of how to apply please visit our microsite:

www.thewlisgraham.com/opportunities

For a confidential discussion please contact Thewlis Graham Associates by email

rcvs@thewlisgraham.com.