Veterinary Council of Ireland
Newsletter

Quarter 4 Winter | 19th December 2024 | Issue 43

A Letter from the VCI President Dr Rachel Brown



As my first year in the office of President of the Veterinary Council draws to a close, I am pleased to have this opportunity to address you and provide an overview of matters the Council have been working on over the last few months.

Registration Renewals Process

The annual renewal of registration process commenced on 15th November 2024 with all registrants invited to renew their registration by completing and returning an online renewal form, in conjunction with electronic fee payment. A note of thanks to the many registrants who have completed registration renewal to date.

Workforce Review Focus Group

The VCI, along with a number of stakeholders, have been carrying out analysis on our Registers and the rich data we hold on veterinary registered persons and practices across the country over recent months, with a view to producing a Workforce Report to inform and influence policy into the future.

With a number of draft recommendations, the VCI convened a Focus Group to discuss these recommendations with stakeholders in the Alex Hotel on 23rd October 2024. The purpose of the focus group was to consider and discuss potential policy recommendations prepared by the Workforce Review Working Group to counter challenges in recruitment and retention in veterinary and inform planning for the veterinary professions in the decades ahead. I would also like to thank all the external members of the Working Group for the time, energy and ideas they brought to our Working Group meetings.

Meeting with Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, RCVS

The Registrar and I attended at the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons office in London on 24th October for an annual officers meeting, enabling in person engagement and discussions on topics such as our Mutual Recognition Agreement with the RCVS, and affording an opportunity for the RCVS to provide an update on the Competition and Markets Authority market investigation into veterinary services for household pets in the UK.

Ministerial Statutory Instrument on Veterinary Medicinal Products Regulations SI 462 of 2024

On 12th September 2024, the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine signed the Veterinary Medicinal Products Regulations into law on 12th September 2024.

These regulations contain a protocol for the prescribing of antiparasitic medicines, absent a Client Patient Practice Relationship, offering an alternative definition of proper assessment and required knowledge to that contained in the VCI Code of Conduct. This will regrettably require the VCI to revisit parts of our Code of Conduct, as we cannot have a binding Code of Conduct departing from a position in national legislation.

It is understood that these regulations will come into effect in June 2025, and the VCI will keep all of our registrants informed as we progress our considerations next year.

VCI Attends Veterinary Nursing Programme Graduations

Members of VCI Council and executive team had the pleasure of attending many of the graduation ceremonies for veterinary nursing programmes which took place during the month of October, to include the Cork College of Further Education & Training, Atlantic Technical University, Dundalk Institute of Technology, and Technical University of the Shannon.

The VCI also conducted a routine accreditation visit of the veterinary nursing programme at University College Dublin in October 2024.

New VCI Website

A new VCI website launched on the 14th November 2024. The purpose of designing this new website was to enhance user experience for Registrants and the public, and I invite you to visit the website **www.vci.ie** and explore the changes we have made to what is now a more user-friendly website.

Trust in the Veterinary Professions

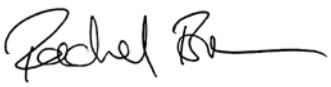
The VCI commissioned a survey by independent firm Behaviour & Attitudes on levels of trust in the veterinary professions as part of an omnibus survey conducted across the country from 1st to 13th August 2024, with results indicating that the veterinary professions are the most trusted professions in Ireland. These results endorse the high standards of practise of veterinary medicine and nursing across the country enjoyed by Irish society, and a source of pride for all veterinary professionals.

A note of thanks

As we move towards the Christmas period, I must acknowledge the great commitment, sense of duty and responsibility shown by our colleagues in clinical practice in the delivery of 24-hour emergency care to animals under their care. The Council acknowledge the burden of this duty and responsibility on you and your families a duty never heavier than at times of public holiday. The Council and society appreciate the great and proud service delivered in the treatment and care of animals across the country, and I want to thank you for your service in this regard.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and Happy Christmas and best wishes for a peaceful New Year ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Rachel Brown
VCI President

2025 Registration Renewal Process



The 2025 Registration Renewal Process commenced on Friday, 15th November 2024 with registrants receiving their renewal notification by email. A note of thanks to the registrants who have engaged with us regarding their renewal of registration to date.

Any Registrant who wishes to continue to practice on 1st January 2025 is required to renew their registration by returning their Registration Renewal Form along with the relevant fee before 31st December 2024. Following the introduction of the Veterinary Council's Registration Regulations in 2022, under statutory instruments 279, 280, and 281 of 2022, the return of the 2025 Registration Renewal Form is mandatory.

The renewal of registration can be completed online or, upon request, submitted by post. To ensure ease of access and convenience for Registrants in renewing their registration, an online Registration Renewal Form was sent via email to all Registrants. The online form contains a payment portal to enable secure payment of the fee by debit or credit card.

Registrants can also pay their 2025 Registration Renewal Fee on the Council's website by clicking on the 'Pay Fees' tab on the homepage. Upon payment of the fee online, registrants will automatically receive a receipt to their email address. Payment of the fee by cheque, must be paid in euros only, and with the registration number written clearly on the back will also be accepted.

Please note that all Direct Debits previously held by the Veterinary Council were cancelled in 2019 and therefore will not be processed.

Any Registrant who has not received an email with their 2025 Registration Renewal Form is asked to contact the Veterinary Council offices on 01 6684402 or by email to **arf@vci.ie**.

Should any Registrant wish to request a hard copy of the Registration Renewal Form, please contact this office on 01 6684402 or by email to **arf@vci.ie**, quote your registration number and a form will be posted to you without delay.

Please be advised that registration renewals submitted late and after 28th February 2025 will incur a 20% late renewal penalty on top of the registration renewal fee. Further information about the late renewal penalty is available on the Council's website.

If you have any queries in relation to your Annual Renewal of Registration, please contact this office on 01 668 4402, or via email to: **arf@vci.ie** and a member of our team will be pleased to assist you.

Expression of Interest Sought to Join the VCI's Practice Premises Committee



The VCI is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified persons to serve as an external member on the VCI's Practice Premises Committee. The role of the Practice Premises Committee extends to all practice premises aspects of the Council's functions, including consideration of all Certificate of Suitability applications, review of reports in respect of premises inspections and management of the Premises Accreditation Scheme including regular reviews to ensure it remains fit for purpose. For further information on the role, please visit the **VCI website**. Applications should be sent by email to **pas@vci.ie** to be received by 5pm on 10th January 2025.

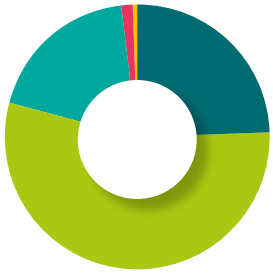
Controlled Drugs Guidance Document

The VCI have developed a guidance document for use by veterinary practitioners and veterinary nurses to assist with the safe management of controlled drugs at registered veterinary premises in line with relevant legislation and best practice, and in the interest of safety for practice staff and the public. A copy of the **Controlled Drugs Guidance document** is available for download from the VCI website. For any queries regarding the Controlled Drugs Guidance document, please email **pas@vci.ie**.



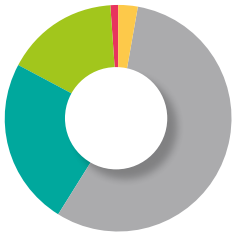
Statistics from the Veterinary Premises Register December 2024

Total Registered Veterinary Premises – 771



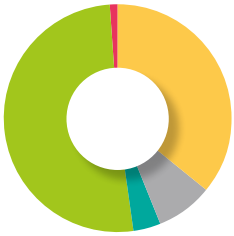
- Registered Veterinary Offices – **193**
- Registered Veterinary Clinics – **426**
- Registered Veterinary Hospitals – **139**
- Registered Veterinary Facilities – **9**
- Registered Mobile Veterinary Units (Charities) – **4**

Breakdown of Registered Veterinary Premises by Practice Profile



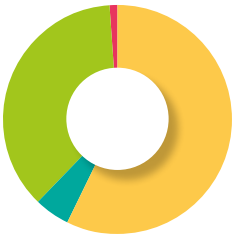
Registered Veterinary Offices - 193

- Companion Animal – **3%**
- Farm Animal – **57%**
- Equine – **23%**
- Mixed Practice – **16%**
- Other – **1%**



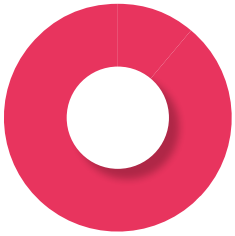
Registered Veterinary Clinics - 426

- Companion Animal – **37%**
- Farm Animal – **8%**
- Equine – **4%**
- Mixed Practice – **50%**
- Other – **1%**



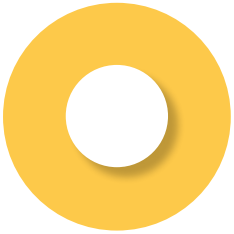
Registered Veterinary Hospitals - 139

- Companion Animal – **58%**
- Farm Animal – **0**
- Equine – **5%**
- Mixed Practice – **37%**
- Other – **0**



Registered Veterinary Facilities - 9

- Companion Animal – **0**
- Farm Animal – **0**
- Equine – **0**
- Mixed Practice – **0**
- Other – **100%**



Registered Mobile Veterinary Units (Charities) - 4

- Companion Animal – **100%**
- Farm Animal – **0**
- Equine – **0**
- Mixed Practice – **0**
- Other – **0**

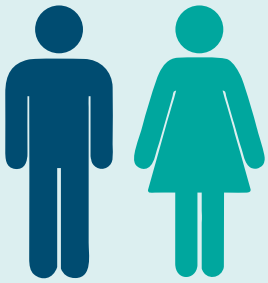
Statistics from the VCI Registers of Veterinary Practitioners and Veterinary Nurses

December 2024

Veterinary Practitioner New Entries
299

Veterinary Nurse New Entries
123

Total Number of Male and Female VP and VN



Total Male VP: 1,825
Total Male VN: 43

Total Female VP: 1,880
Total Female VN: 1,248

Veterinary Practitioners on the Register
3,705

Veterinary Nurses on the Register
1,291

Canine Artificial Insemination

Canine Surgical Artificial Insemination

In April 2024, the Veterinary Council decided, in the interest of dog health and welfare, to update the Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Practitioners and provide guidance to veterinary practitioners, veterinary nurses and the public on the matter of Canine Surgical Artificial Insemination, namely, to prohibit canine surgical artificial insemination by veterinary practitioners in Ireland. While the Council determined that the ban on canine surgical artificial insemination should encompass all breeds of dogs, it recognises that there is legislation in place that permits surgical artificial insemination in greyhounds. The artificial insemination of greyhounds is regulated under the Artificial Insemination of Greyhounds Act 2005.

The Veterinary Council, in considering canine surgical artificial insemination, agreed that the ethical and welfare issues arising from this procedure stem from the fact that the dogs undergo a highly invasive surgery to ensure pregnancy, and this presents an unacceptable level of risk for dogs. The Veterinary Council considers there is no justifiable reason for this procedure in circumstances where a non-surgical, minimally invasive, and effective alternative exists. The risks and discomfort associated with undertaking surgical insemination are unnecessary with canine transcervical artificial insemination now available.

Canine Transcervical Artificial insemination

The Veterinary Council considers transcervical artificial insemination, where semen is inserted directly into the uterus using a catheter and/or endoscope, to constitute the practice of veterinary medicine. This procedure can only be carried out by a veterinary practitioner and due to its invasive nature, it should not be delegated to veterinary nurses.

Canine Trans-vaginal (also known as intra-vaginal) Artificial Insemination

In May 2024, the Veterinary Council carried out a public consultation on trans-vaginal artificial insemination and is currently considering the information and views received. The Veterinary Council expects to be in a position to provide guidance on who is legally entitled to undertake the procedure in early 2025.



VCI President Dr Rachel Brown takes part in Vet24 Conference

Dr Rachel Brown, President of the VCI, was pleased to deliver a case presentation and take part in a panel discussion at this year's Vet24 conference which took place in Killarney from 11th-13th October 2024.



VCI Annual Meeting with Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

Dr Rachel Brown, President of the VCI and Niamh Muldoon, Registrar and CEO of the VCI, attended an annual officers meeting with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) at their office in London on 24th October.

The President and Registrar of the VCI met with Lizzie Lockett, CEO of the RCVS, Linda Belton, President of the RCVS, Ben Myring Policy and Public Affairs Manager, RCVS and Dr Linda Prescott-Clements, Director of Education at the RCVS. This in-person meeting facilitated a review of the Mutual Recognition Agreement in place between the RCVS and the VCI, alongside discussion of other matters of mutual interest.



Veterinary Council of Ireland Position on the Abivet Rome Online Veterinary Technician Programme



The VCI wishes to address Irish graduates, students, and prospective students of the Abivet Rome Online Veterinary Technician Programme regarding the VCI's position on this programme and the eligibility status of this programme, for the purpose of registration as a veterinary nurse in Ireland.

The VCI does not recognise the Abivet Rome Online Veterinary Technician Programme for the purpose of registration as a veterinary nurse in Ireland, and graduates from this programme are not eligible to have their qualifications assessed against the Irish veterinary nursing training standards or to sit any pre-registration examination.

In accordance with its affiliation agreement with the European Accreditation Committee for Veterinary Nursing Education (ACOVENE), the VCI does not recognise veterinary nursing programmes accredited by ACOVENE that are primarily delivered online. This is due to concerns over the ability of such programmes, including the Abivet Rome Online Veterinary Technician Programme, to meet VCI quality standards for clinical placements and to provide adequate student support. Consequently, graduates from ACOVENE programmes that are delivered primarily online are not recognised by the VCI for the purpose of eligibility for registration.

At the VCI's meeting on 7th November 2024, the Council considered whether graduates of the Abivet Rome Online Veterinary Technician Programme should be eligible to have their veterinary technician qualification assessed against the Irish veterinary nursing training standards, and potentially to sit a pre-registration examination to determine eligibility for registration. While the VCI recognises the challenging circumstances faced by students and graduates of such programmes, the primary role of the Veterinary Council is to uphold and support standards in veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing in Ireland, and accordingly, VCI reservations regarding the Abivet Rome Online Veterinary Technician Programme are significant, in the context of our public interest role in Ireland. Concerns include the inadequate or inconsistent quality assured levels of hands-on training provided to students on the online programme, and the concerns for the readiness of students to practise as veterinary nurses in Ireland.

Clinical Placement Concerns

The VCI's standards mandate rigorous clinical placement experiences to ensure that graduates of veterinary nursing programmes are prepared for the practical demands of the profession. However, VCI reservations in relation to the Abivet Rome Online Veterinary Technician Programme are founded on significant deficiencies when compared against Irish training standards in the clinical placement aspect of this programme. Consistent and comprehensive practical training in recognised programmes is essential in the interest of animal health and welfare and upholding public trust in the veterinary nursing profession. The VCI determine that the online nature of the programme does not ensure adequate consistency in the delivery of quality assured clinical experiences for students, failing to meet the high standards required for VCI recognition.

VCI Standards for Veterinary Nursing in Ireland

In accordance with the Veterinary Practice Act 2005 (as amended), only individuals registered on the Register of Veterinary Nurses or enrolled at students in an approved programme of veterinary nursing in Ireland may practice veterinary nursing in the State. As the independent regulator for the veterinary professions in the State, the VCI holds a responsibility to maintain high standards in veterinary nurse training and to protect animal health, welfare, and public health. Ensuring that only those with recognised qualifications can register in Ireland is a critical legal function and responsibility of the VCI.

Notification to Graduates, Students and Prospective Students

The Council highlights that the onus of research and responsibility rests with any prospective student seeking to enrol in any programme to investigate the eligibility status of any award. The Veterinary Council is keen to ensure that no misperceptions arise as a result of any communications, by any potential virtual programme offering, to any potential students on the status of the programme's status or eligibility in Ireland.

After careful consideration, the Council has determined that:

1. The current position of the VCI remains unchanged, that the Abivet Rome Online Veterinary Technician Programme is not recognised for eligibility for the purpose of registration as a veterinary nurse in Ireland.
2. That qualifications as a veterinary technician obtained from the Abivet Rome Online Veterinary Technician Programme are not eligible for consideration or assessment against the Irish veterinary nursing training standards, or for consideration or participation in any VCI pre-registration examination.

The Council appreciates and is sympathetic to the unique circumstances faced by the graduates and students enrolled in the Abivet Rome Online Veterinary Technician Programme. However, in the interest of animal health, welfare, and public health, the VCI remains committed to upholding the highest standards in veterinary nursing education in Ireland.

Veterinary Nursing Graduations 2024

The VCI is pleased to attend the conferring ceremonies of graduating vets and veterinary nurses each year. Members of the Council and Executive were in attendance at the Cork College of FET, Dundalk Institute of Technology, Technological University of the Shannon and Atlantic Technological University veterinary nursing graduations which took place throughout the Autumn this year.



Pictured (R-L): Dr Rachel Brown with Anne O'Callaghan, Cork College of FET Veterinary Nursing Student of the Year 2024.



Pictured (L-R): Sharon Bergin VCI Executive, Danielle Curran Technological University of the Shannon Veterinary Nursing Student of the Year 2024.

The VCI Student Veterinary Nursing of the Year award is in recognition of hard work, and the Council are pleased to present this award for the nursing student of the year and to be given the opportunity to congratulate all new graduates as they join the veterinary nursing profession.



Pictured (L-R): Catherine Lawler VCI, Dr Kim McFadden Head of Department of Life and Physical Sciences at Atlantic Technological University, Bethany Rose McMonagle Atlantic Technological University Nursing Veterinary Nursing Student of the Year 2024.



Pictured (L-R): Kevin McConnell, Deputy President VCI, Ciara McGuinness Dundalk Institute of Technology Veterinary Nursing Student of the Year 2024.

DKIT Careers Fair 2024

The Veterinary Council exhibited at this year's Dundalk Institute of Technology Careers Event which took place in the college, on Tuesday 8th October 2024

The VCI were delighted to be asked to attend the DKIT Careers event, it was an opportunity to engage with veterinary nursing students from all years of the programme. In particular, it gave students in their final year an insight to the role of Council, the steps involved in registering and the importance of managing their continuous veterinary education.

A note of special thanks to the staff of DKIT who provided a warm welcome to our Executive members.



VCI Attends FVE General Assembly November 2024



FVE Conference Brussels 2024.

The Federation of Veterinarians in Europe (FVE) is a veterinary representative organisation based in Brussels.

FVE is an umbrella body for veterinary statutory bodies and associations from 38 European Countries encompassing the many elements of veterinary fields. These fields include veterinary practitioners (UEVP), state officers (EASVO), food safety and veterinary public health (UEVH), Statutory bodies and veterinary practitioners working in education, research and industry (EVERI).

VCI Representatives of the Conjoint Committee attended this year's General Assembly which took place in Brussels, Belgium from the 28th – 29th November 2024.

The FVE play an active role in coordinating initiatives across member states and advise and progress animal health and welfare, and education policy at European Commission level.



Pictured (L-R): Dr Finola McCoy, Senior Programme Manager CellCheck, Animal Health Ireland, Brian Kilgallen, Deputy Head of Unit Secretariat General, European Commission and Aideen Neylon, VCI.



Pictured: VCI Registrar Niamh Muldoon meets with American Veterinary Medical Association President, Dr Sandra Faeh, American Veterinary Medical Association President and Director of International Affairs, Dr Mike Topper and Dr Tracy Fisher, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association President.



Pictured (L-R): VCI Registrar Niamh Muldoon meets with Prof. Dr. Pierre Lekeux, Director of ESEVT, EAEVE, and Dr Finola McCoy, Senior Programme Manager CellCheck, Animal Health Ireland.

Construction works for 53 Lansdowne Road

The VCI were successful in obtaining planning permission, granted by Dublin City Council in December 2023 for works to the VCI offices at 53 Lansdowne Road, for the maintenance and refurbishment of the existing period offices, with the addition of an extension to provide a single story Council chamber.

This will enable Council meetings and other meetings to be convened in 53 Lansdowne Road once again, offering privacy, security of tenure and fit for purpose facilities for Council in discharging their statutory duties. The required works for 53 Lansdowne Road will be funded from capital reserves, held by the Council, confined for use for purposes such as this. Following the issue of a commencement notice on 20th November 2024, the necessary works on 53 Lansdowne Road will commence in January 2025 and continue throughout the year.



Ethical Ethel

Dear Ethel,

I was presented with a litter of puppies this morning for vaccination and microchipping. The owner of the puppies is a new client to the practice and is unknown to me. The owner asked me to register the puppies in the name and address of her daughter, saying that she will be selling the dogs on her behalf. I'm unsure what to do or what documents I should request from the client. Please can you advise me?

Kind regards,

Tony MVB



Dear Tony,

Microchipping protects the welfare of dogs by promoting responsible ownership and provides the best way to locate an owner if a pet becomes lost or displaced.

In February 2015, S.I. No. 63 of 2015 Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2015 were signed into law by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The Regulations require all dogs to be identified by implantation of a microchip and registered with a dog identification database by the time they are 12 weeks old. The Regulations also set out procedures for the notification of the transfer of ownership of dogs.

Puppies are not allowed to leave their place of birth without being microchipped unless it is for the specific purpose of being transported to a registered veterinary premises to be microchipped and registered. Alternatively, a vet or vet nurse may visit the home of the puppy or dog to carry out microchipping on site.

This means that a new puppy owner should be able to purchase a puppy that is implanted with a microchip and registered on an approved database. A new owner must also receive a change of ownership form from the person selling or gifting the pup. Once the new owner completes this new form and returns it to the dog identification database, they will be sent a registration certificate for the puppy which they will keep for its lifetime. If they pass the dog on to someone else (for money, or as a gift), the new owner will again be obliged to complete a change of ownership form. In this way, the current ownership of a dog will always be clearly defined.

The vet and vet nurse has a key role when microchipping dogs. Microchipping is an official procedure that involves specific documentation to ensure that all dogs are properly linked to owners. The owner of the dog(s) is the only person that can present the dog(s) for microchipping as it is the owner that has to sign the registration form.

Before implanting or registering a microchip with a dog identification database, a vet must certify that they have inspected two important documents from the dog owner:

(1) Some type of photographic identification (e.g. a passport or a driving license) which also confirms that the dog owner is 16 years old or older; and

(2) A utility bill issued within the previous three months, confirming the owner's address.

Without these documents, microchipping **must not** take place.

Veterinary practitioners have a professional responsibility to ensure the integrity of veterinary certification and should familiarise themselves with the requirements of the Regulations. The simple act of signing your name on a document should be approached with care and accuracy. Veterinary practitioners must certify facts and opinions honestly and with due care, taking into account all the Principles of Certification set out in the Code of Professional Conduct. They should not sign certificates which they know or ought to know are untrue, misleading or inaccurate as this may lead to disciplinary proceedings and findings before the VCI's Fitness to Practise Committee.

The Microchipping Regulations can be accessed by following this link: **https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/si/63**

In conclusion, you should not microchip or register puppies until you have a) clarified that the client presenting the puppies is the owner of the puppies, (b) obtained some type of photographic identification which also indicates the age of the client; and (c) obtained a utility bill issued within the previous three months, confirming your client's address.

All the best,

Ethel

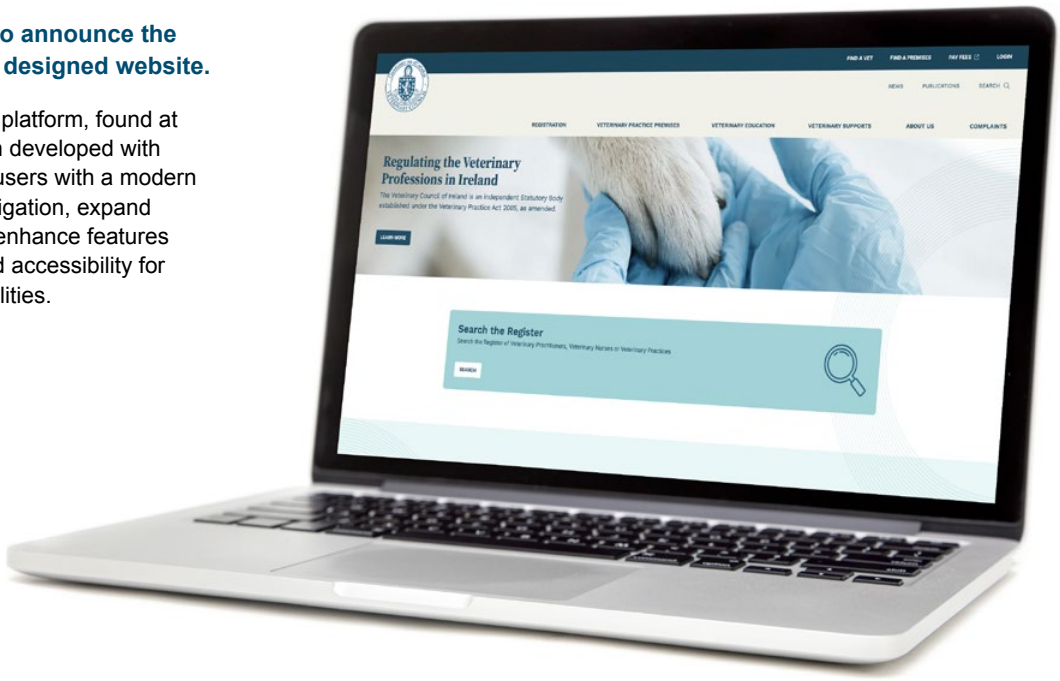
Your ethical dilemmas are welcome for Ethel's consideration.

These may be submitted in confidence to info@vci.ie or to the Council offices at 53 Lansdowne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 D04 NY29.

VCI Launches New Website

The VCI is thrilled to announce the launch of its newly designed website.

The revamped online platform, found at **www.vci.ie**, has been developed with the goal of providing users with a modern design, improved navigation, expand our digital reach and enhance features for better usability and accessibility for individuals with disabilities.



VCI Sign MOU with the Health Products Regulatory Authority

HPRA
An tÚdarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte
Health Products Regulatory Authority

On 4th November 2024, a Memorandum of Understanding was established between the HPRA and the Veterinary Council.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is intended to assist and support both the VCI and the Health Products Regulatory Authority in performing their individual regulatory functions and to enable the sharing of information as relevant between the two organisations, in the public interest. This MOU covers areas of common interest and enables meaningful collaboration between the bodies.

Objectives of the agreement include:

- to promote an understanding between the bodies of each other's regulatory roles, requirements and processes;
- to facilitate the exchange of information and documentation relating to the regulation of Veterinary Medicinal Products and areas of common interest;
- to facilitate collaborative activities between the parties;
- to enhance the ability of the bodies in the provision of their respective roles relating to or in connection with animal or public health.



Pictured (L-R): Niamh Muldoon Registrar VCI, Dr Gabriel Beechinor, Director of Veterinary Sciences at the HPRA, Dr Lorraine Nolan, CEO of the HPRA.

The HPRA, the national regulator for veterinary medicines

HPRA
An tÚdarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte
Health Products Regulatory Authority

Access a comprehensive database of authorised veterinary medicines

The Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) plays a vital role in ensuring the safety and efficacy of health products, including veterinary medicines, in Ireland. As a veterinary practitioner or veterinary nurse working in Ireland, it is important to be familiar with the HPRA as the national regulator for medicines and how its services and website can assist and support you in your practise of veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing.

What is the HPRA?

The HPRA is Ireland's national regulatory authority for medicines, veterinary medicines, and other health products. It is responsible for regulating and monitoring the safety, quality, and effectiveness of veterinary medicines, ensuring they are safe for animals, users, consumers and the environment.

Why is the HPRA Important for Veterinary Professionals?

1. **Ensuring Safe and Effective Veterinary Medicines**
   - **Regulation and Approval:** The HPRA assesses and authorises veterinary medicines before they can be marketed in Ireland. This means you can be confident that the products you prescribe are safe and effective.
   - **Ongoing Monitoring:** The HPRA continues to monitor these products post-approval to ensure they remain safe. This includes monitoring adverse reactions and taking regulatory action if necessary.
2. **Access to Up-to-Date and Searchable Medicines Information**
   - **Product Database:** The HPRA website provides the most up-to-date database of authorised veterinary medicines, including detailed information on indications, dosage, side effects, and withdrawal periods.
   - **Product search:** Search or filter the HPRA database to search for suitable products. You can also filter for nationally authorised products for particular species, drug type or other category using the 'Advanced search' function.
3. **Compliance and Best Practices**
   - **Legislation and Regulations:** The HPRA provides information on the legal framework governing veterinary medicines. Staying informed about these regulations helps ensure your practice is compliant with national and EU laws. Complying with the regulatory framework protects animal health, consumer safety and the international standing of Irish food products.
   - **Inspections and Audits:** The HPRA conducts inspections of veterinary companies to ensure compliance with standards and regulations, helping maintain high standards of product quality and safety.
4. **Reporting Adverse Reactions**
   - **Pharmacovigilance:** The HPRA has a system for reporting and monitoring adverse reactions to veterinary medicines. By reporting any adverse effects you encounter, you contribute to the safety and efficacy of veterinary products and help protect animal health and safety of users.

Navigating the HPRA Website: Key Features and Resources

Visiting the HPRA website **(www.hpra.ie)** should be a regular part of your professional routine. Here are some key features and resources you'll find:

- **Medicines Information:** Access the most up-to-date information on authorised veterinary medicines, including SPCs (Summary of Product Characteristics) and package leaflets. Information on all veterinary medicines is being updated before January 2027, but the latest updates are on the HPRA website.
- **Safety Updates:** Stay informed about the latest safety notices, product recalls, and alerts regarding veterinary products. Our website explains the reasons why these events are taking place.
- **Shortages:** Check out which products are in short supply nationally.
- **Report an adverse reaction:** Information on how to report suspected adverse reactions to a medicine is available for on-line submission.
- **Educational Resources:** Find training materials and resources to enhance your understanding of regulatory requirements and best practices, including how we decide whether a product is a veterinary medicine or not.
- **Contact Information:** Easily find contact details for specific queries or reporting issues, ensuring you can get the support you need when you need it.

Conclusion

The HPRA is your partner in ensuring that the veterinary medicines used and prescribed are safe, effective, and compliant with regulatory standards. Make the HPRA website your go-to resource for up-to-date information and support throughout your veterinary career in Ireland.



Summary Guide to Available Supports

WHERE TO GET HELP

There are different types of support available for people with mental health difficulties. Many of the supports listed here are available without a referral, and are provided by agencies with the support of the HSE.

If you need information about what supports or services might be helpful for you, speak with a GP or call the HSE YourMentalHealth Information Line (freephone 1800 111 888) anytime day or night.

Samaritans

Samaritans services are available 24 hours a day, for confidential, non-judgmental support.

Samaritans is a service that can be used either if your situation feels more urgent, or if you feel like all you need is a good chat. There are branches of Samaritans in Ireland with volunteers ready to answer the phone if you feel overwhelmed. You can ring their helpline whether or not you have mental health issues, if you're worried about a friend, and even if you're under 18. All conversations with Samaritans are off the record, and there is no need to give them any personal details.

You can find your nearest Samaritans branch here. Volunteers are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- Freephone **116 123**
- Email jo@samaritans.ie
- Visit www.samaritans.ie for more information

Pieta

Pieta provide a range of suicide and self-harm prevention services.

Pieta first opened its doors in Lucan, County Dublin in 2006. Since then we have seen and helped over 60,000 people in suicidal distress or engaging in self-harm.

They operate 15 Pieta Centres, three Outreach services, and one Inreach service. Get in touch here.

- Freephone **1800 247 247** anytime day or night
- Text **HELP** to **51444** (standard message rates apply)
- Visit www.pieta.ie for more information

Text 50808

A free 24/7 text service, providing everything from a calming chat to immediate support for people going through a mental health or emotional crisis.

- Text **HELLO** to **50808**, anytime day or night
- Visit www.text50808.ie for more information

Aware

Aware have a support line for anyone who is worried about depression, which operates from 10am to 10pm, seven days a week, as well as a support mail service. Aware also offer a suite of 'Wellness @Work' programmes that are ideal for helping your workplace understand the importance and value of looking after their mental health, and to use relevant coping skills to limit the impact of any challenges or concerns.

- Helpline no. **+353 1800 80 48 48** Open 10am - 10pm (Monday - Sunday)
- Website: www.aware.ie
- Email: supportmail@aware.ie

MyMind

MyMind provides fast and easy access to counselling and psychotherapy face to face and online. MyMind is the first and largest blended model of mental health care in Ireland, and is putting Ireland at the forefront of mental health innovation. MyMind has created a unique movement for community-based mental health services that work towards giving every person in Ireland equal access to mental health support early, affordably, directly, without stigma or delay.

- Website: https://mymind.org/
- Email: @mymind.org.com
- **(+353) 818 500 800** (from Ireland)
- **(+353) 1 223 8651** (from outside Ireland)
- **(+44) 20 33 22 44 99** (UK and NI)

OTHER PROGRAMMES

Suicide prevention and bereavement training

The HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) provides a range of freely available education and training initiatives encompassing suicide prevention and mental health promotion. They include LivingWorks Start (online suicide prevention skills), safeTALK, ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) and others, on self-harm and suicide bereavement. Visit www.nosp.ie/training for more information.

Publicly available HSE online health programmes

Stress Control online is an evidence-based stress prevention and management programme which aims to help people who want to learn effective ways to prevent stress or manage stress becoming a problem. It works for people with severe, moderate and mild symptoms of stress. It is a six session online class each lasting for 90 minutes. Dates for the next online sessions are available at https://stresscontrol.ie/dates/

Minding Your Wellbeing (MYW) was originally developed as an evidenced based, one day programme, promoting a positive approach to mental health and wellbeing. Since Covid 19 the programme is now available online as 5 video sessions, each lasting approximately 20 minutes. www2.hse.ie/healthy-you/minding-your-wellbeing-programme.html

Mental Health First Aid

Mental Health First Aid is the help provided to a person developing a mental health problem or in a mental health crisis. The first aid is given until appropriate professional treatment is received or until the crisis resolves. To read more about the services they provide, please visit: www.mhfaireland.ie/what-is-mental-health-first-aid

IN AN EMERGENCY

Hospital and emergency services

If you, or someone you know is at immediate risk of harm, go to or call the emergency department of your local general hospital. You can also contact emergency services on 112 or 999 anytime, day or night.

A GP

A GP can offer support for anyone in crisis. If possible, ask someone to come along with you. Find a service near you:

- GP or health centre
- Out of hours GP service

HSE Mental Health Services

If you are being supported by a mental health team, or have been in the past, contact the service for support in a crisis.

IVBF Financial Support

There are times in many of our lives when we have financial difficulties - maybe because of a major change of some kind, such as a health problem or the breakdown of a relationship or death of a loved one. IVBF will look at all your circumstances to understand the issues better and will help you plan a way forward.

What sort of help is given?

- Emergency assistance
- Regular monthly grants
- One-off gifts
- Direct you to professional advice on State benefits and debt

Absolute confidentiality is assured

Call **087 4481304**, Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm.

Email: info@ivbf.ie

Website: www.ivbf.ie

IVBF Helpline (by Vetlife)

Available to veterinarians and veterinary nurses (working or retired), veterinary students and student veterinary nurses and other non- clinical practice staff.

Are you struggling with:

- Anxiety, Depressive symptoms, Suicidal thoughts, Suicide risk.

The free VetLife helpline is contactable 24 hours a day, 365 days a year either by phone or anonymous email.

Freephone 1800 145 145



Contact us

Veterinary Council of Ireland,
53 Lansdowne Road,
Ballsbridge,
Dublin 4 D04 NY29.
info@vci.ie
www.vci.ie

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