



Quarter 2 Summer | 31 July 2025 | Issue 45



## A note from Kevin McConnell, Deputy President and Chair of the Practice Premises Committee

I am delighted to have this opportunity to address you as Deputy President of the VCI and Chair of the Practice Premises Committee. In 2018 I was appointed by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to the Veterinary Council of Ireland ("the Council") on a four-year term, then re-appointed following the Council election in 2021 for a further four years. I have been Chair of the Practice Premises Committee since 2022, and I have thoroughly enjoyed contributing to Premises Accreditation matters.

### Role of the Practice Premises Committee

The role of the Practice Premises Committee ("the PPC") involves the management of the Council's Premises Accreditation Scheme ("the PAS"). The PAS is a mandatory scheme introduced to regulate veterinary premises in the State in accordance with Part 9 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005, as amended. Under the PAS, all veterinary premises in the State must be registered and certified by the Council. When a veterinary premises has been registered by the Council, a Certificate of Suitability ("COS") with a unique registration number for the premises is issued to the Registrant who made the application. Through the PAS, the VCI regulates and maintains standards of veterinary premises in the State in the public interest by carrying out premises inspections of new veterinary practice premises as well as routine revisit inspections of existing veterinary practice premises.

In addition to reviewing COS applications, COS revocation requests and other applications for changes to the COS Register, the PPC is committed to improving the standards of veterinary practice in Ireland through the PAS and to dealing with all matters related to the PAS, its related procedures, and regulations.

### Veterinary Council of Ireland Workforce Report

In May of this year, the Council released its first Workforce Report, aimed at examining the current landscape of the veterinary profession in Ireland. The report explores key aspects such as demographics, professional trends, geographic distribution, and the types of practice and species focus among clinically active veterinary practitioners and veterinary nurses. Its findings reveal notable changes within the sector, along with emerging challenges related to work-life balance. This report is discussed in more detail in this newsletter on page 2. The full Workforce Report is available on the VCI website at [here](#).

### Upcoming Certificate of Suitability Renewals Process

The Certificate of Suitability in respect of any registered veterinary premises is issued by the Council for a defined validity period. The current Premises Accreditation Scheme cycle which commenced at the start of 2022 will end this year with the next PAS Cycle commencing on 1 January 2026. All Certificate of Suitability Holders will be invited to apply to renew their practice premises registration with the Council in order for the practice of veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing to continue at or from the practice premises.

The Practice Premises Committee and the Council is in the process of reviewing the Premises Accreditation Scheme in advance of the next PAS Cycle commencing on 1 January 2026. This is to ensure that the PAS remains fit for purpose in the interest of maintaining proper standards as regards veterinary premises in the State, effective regulation, and the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of animals, the public, and registered persons. The Council will issue correspondence to all registered veterinary premises later this year regarding the upcoming COS Renewal process.

Yours sincerely,

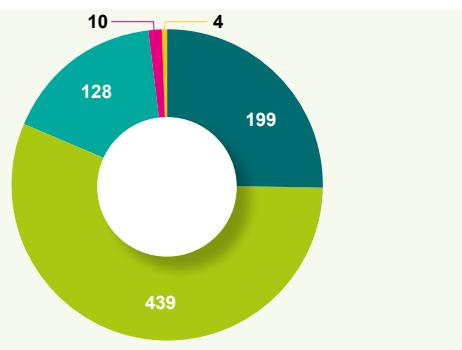
**Kevin McConnell MVB**

*Deputy President and Chair of the Practice Premises Committee*

### PAS Stats July 2025

**Total Registered Veterinary Premises – 780**

- Registered Veterinary Offices – 199
- Registered Veterinary Clinics – 439
- Registered Veterinary Hospitals – 128
- Registered Veterinary Facilities – 10
- Registered Mobile Veterinary Units (Charities) – 4



# Workforce Report

## The VCI published its first Workforce Report in May

The Workforce Report examined the demographics, professional dynamics, geography and nature of practise/species of the clinically active veterinary workforce in the Republic of Ireland.

The Workforce Report highlights that there are growing pressures on the veterinary profession, including recruitment and retention challenges in rural areas, limited out-of-hours emergency cover, and work-life balance issues.

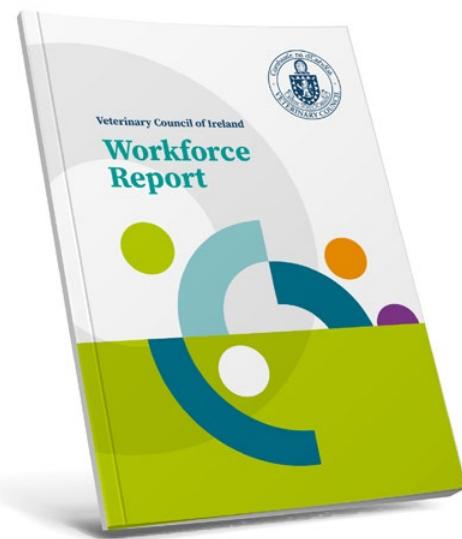
Key findings of the Workforce Report include:

- ▶ The veterinary register has grown by 30% since 2004, yet rural areas face shortages of large-animal practitioners, essential for Ireland's agricultural sector.
- ▶ Demand for veterinary study places is rising.
- ▶ Attrition rates are linked to workload pressures, particularly in rural and large-animal practices.
- ▶ An increasing demand for companion animal care (small animal practice) is leading to a shortage of large animal care practitioners.
- ▶ One-third of all veterinary practitioners have graduated abroad, reflecting the globalised nature of veterinary education and practice.
- ▶ Demand for veterinary services is expected to grow by an average of 3.37% each year to 2033.
- ▶ The report shows that work conditions and progression opportunities need to be addressed and improved to ensure recently qualified and younger graduates are attracted to staying in practise in order to meet the demanding challenges of practice, food safety and public health initiatives.

### Recommendations:

The Workforce Report makes recommendations to improve work-life balance for vets and vet nurses such as enhancing workplace conditions, better utilising veterinary nurses, introducing supports for practitioners in rural and large-animal practices and mental health supports and leadership training to improve job satisfaction and retention.

To ensure a sustainable workforce, the VCI urges collaboration among stakeholders to enhance recruitment, expand veterinary education pathways, and align planning with the needs of Ireland's companion animal and agricultural sectors.



The full Workforce Report is available on the VCI website at [here](#).

## Premises Accreditation Scheme Consultation

### The Veterinary Council of Ireland are undertaking a review of its Premises Accreditation Scheme, and we welcome your feedback.

As part of its commitment to promoting high standards in veterinary care, animal welfare, and public confidence, the Council is conducting a full review of the Premises Accreditation Scheme. The Premises Accreditation Scheme defines the minimum standards and requirements that all registered veterinary premises in Ireland must meet to operate legally and safely.

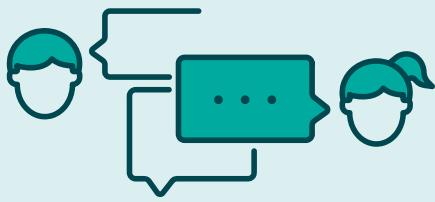
We are seeking input from a wide range of stakeholders, including veterinary practitioners and nurses, practice owners, non-registered practice staff, animal owners, industry partners, and members of the public, on how the scheme can be improved, updated, and adapted to reflect the current and future needs of veterinary services in Ireland.

The consultation will run from Friday, 1 August 2025 – Friday, 29 August 2025, and will be available on the VCI website [here](#).

If you have any questions or require further guidance in relation to this consultation, please contact the Council's Executive Office by phone on 01 6684402, or by email to [pas@vci.ie](mailto:pas@vci.ie).



# Stakeholder Consultation on Educational Accreditation Standards



The Veterinary Council of Ireland is currently reviewing its accreditation standards for veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing programmes to ensure that Ireland's veterinary education framework continues to reflect best international practice, supports student-centred learning, and aligns with the One Health approach.

In anticipation of sector growth and emerging models of programme delivery, the Veterinary Council launched a consultation with key stakeholders on July 1st, inviting feedback from partners in veterinary education, regulatory bodies, international regulatory and accreditation bodies, government agencies, as well as all registered persons in the veterinary professions.

The consultation will run until **11 September 2025**, and all feedback received will help to inform the continuing enhancement of accreditation standards.

For more information on this consultation, please see our website [here](#) or login to the [Registrant Extranet](#). Please contact [info@vci.ie](mailto:info@vci.ie) with any queries or feedback.



## Are you interested in Accreditation and Education Programme Standards?

The Veterinary Council is seeking to expand and develop its pool of experienced and qualified accreditation panel members. In Ireland, there are currently 5 accredited programmes of Veterinary Nursing, with 2 new programmes pending accreditation assessment. There is currently 1 Veterinary Medicine programme accredited, with 2 new programmes of Veterinary Medicine anticipated in the years ahead.

Accreditation visitations to educational institutions of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Nursing are carried out to assess and quality assure programmes, with periodical reviews of any accredited established courses.

Over the coming years, the Council will lead and participate in accreditation visitations at educational institutions both in Ireland and in partnership with international partner agencies, including the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) in the UK and the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC).

### What does Accreditation involve?

Accreditation assessment involves an in-depth analysis of the programme's structure, curriculum, student supports and assessments.

This is supplemented by an on site visitation to the programme of education over a number of days, to include meetings with educational lecturers, students, veterinary practices and other stakeholders. Visitation panels usually consist of an international panel of persons from a range of disciplines, to include veterinary medicine, veterinary nursing, educational experts, food safety and public health. The accreditation visitation report compiled by the accreditation panel, appointed on behalf of the Veterinary Council, will then be considered by the Veterinary Education and Training Committee of the Veterinary Council and the Veterinary Council. The Veterinary Council is the competent authority in law for the accreditation of any programme for veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing.



Membership of an accreditation panel requires an interest in educational standards and professionalism, an eye for detail, a thorough grounding in educational quality standards and an ability to consider practical realities in education in the light of the objective standards. Training on accreditation standards will be provided.

Persons who may be interested in serving in this capacity are invited to submit an expression of interest. Any queries in this regard can be directed to [info@vci.ie](mailto:info@vci.ie)

Expressions of Interest are welcomed by email to [info@vci.ie](mailto:info@vci.ie) enclosing an outline CV, by 12 September 2025.

# VCI Elections Autumn 2025

The Veterinary Council will be holding elections for Council membership for 5 veterinary Practitioners and 1 Veterinary Nurse in Autumn 2025. Becoming a Council Member is a powerful way to contribute to public interest and influence positive change, shaping the future of veterinary professional regulation.

By becoming a Council Member, you have the opportunity to have meaningful impact on regulation and policy in the public interest.

If you have an interest in the regulation of the practise of veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing in Ireland and acting in the best interests of animal health and welfare, and public health, would you be available to contribute to VCI work?

## Who can stand for Election and Vote

Those registered on the Register of Veterinary Practitioners and the Register of Veterinary Nurses on **24 July 2025** are eligible to stand for election and vote in the election, in accordance with the Veterinary Council (Election of Registered Veterinary Practitioner and Election of Registered Veterinary Nurse) Rules.

A veterinary practitioner and a veterinary nurse must be on the Register for at least **15 days prior to the election process starting**, to be entitled to be nominated to stand for election, and to nominate another and/or vote in the election. The election process shall commence on the day appointed by the Council for the issuing of nomination forms, being the **15 August 2025**.

The VCI meets 13 times a year, with 8 ordinary business meetings, and an average of 5 sanction meetings in addition. Council members also contribute to committee work during their 4-year term, and so a time commitment is involved for this rewarding work.

The deadline for receipt of nominations will be **5 September 2025**. Voting will take place by electronic means, enabling our vets and vet nurses to vote at the touch of a button from their phone or laptop. **Voting will run from 17 September to 15 October 2025.**



## Electronic Voting for Elections 2025

The VCI will use electronic voting for our 2025 elections to enable ease of accessibility for registered persons casting a vote and offer efficiency for all those participating in the elections. The VCI will partner with an external service provider in offering this electronic voting for our 2025 election. The company that will be providing this service is called Mi-Voice, an objective, independent and experienced provider of electronic voting services.

The VCI has issued notice by post to all active registrants outlining the electronic voting process, with all further communications by email to registered persons.

## Doing the Best for your Pet

### Have you seen our leaflet?

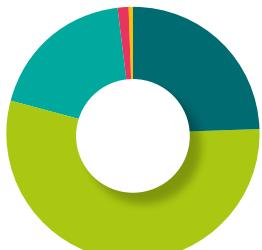
In 2024 the VCI launched a comprehensive leaflet titled 'Doing the Best for your Pet' aimed at providing valuable guidance to pet owners in their interactions with veterinary professionals. The leaflet serves as a roadmap for pet owners, outlining expectations from their veterinary team as well as their own responsibilities in ensuring the health and welfare of their pets and animals.

To access this leaflet please click [here](#).



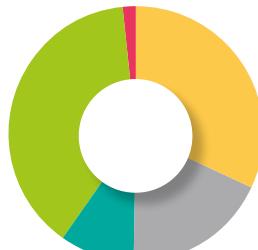
# Statistics from the Veterinary Premises Register July 2025

Total Registered Veterinary Premises – 780



## Breakdown by Classification

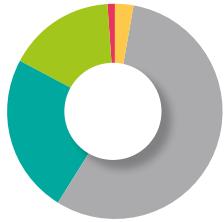
- Registered Veterinary Offices – 199
- Registered Veterinary Clinics – 439
- Registered Veterinary Hospitals – 128
- Registered Veterinary Facilities – 10
- Registered Mobile Veterinary Units (Charities) – 4



## Overall Breakdown by Practice Profile

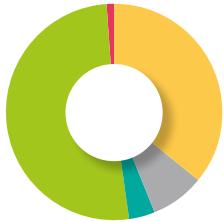
- Companion Animal – 251 (32.2%)
- Farm Animal – 143 (18.3%)
- Equine – 73 (9.4%)
- Mixed Practice – 301 (38.6%)
- Other – 12 (1.5%)

## Breakdown of Registered Veterinary Premises by Practice Profile



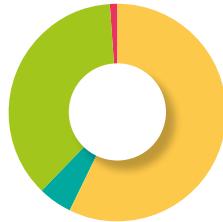
### Registered Veterinary Offices - 199

- Companion Animal – 4%
- Farm Animal – 55%
- Equine – 24%
- Mixed Practice – 16%
- Other – 1%



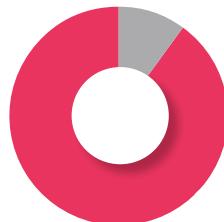
### Registered Veterinary Clinics - 439

- Companion Animal – 38%
- Farm Animal – 8%
- Equine – 4%
- Mixed Practice – 49%
- Other – 1%



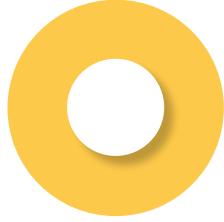
### Registered Veterinary Hospitals - 128

- Companion Animal – 55%
- Farm Animal – 0
- Equine – 5%
- Mixed Practice – 40%
- Other – 0



### Registered Veterinary Facilities - 10

- Companion Animal – 0
- Farm Animal – 10
- Equine – 0
- Mixed Practice – 0
- Other – 90%



### Registered Mobile Veterinary Units (Charities) - 4

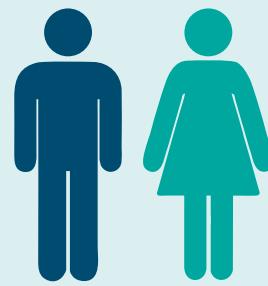
- Companion Animal – 100%
- Farm Animal – 0
- Equine – 0
- Mixed Practice – 0
- Other – 0

# Statistics from the VCI Registers of Veterinary Practitioners and Veterinary Nurses

July 2025



## Total Number of Male and Female VP and VN



Total Male VP: 1,810

Total Male VN: 43

Total Female VP: 1,922

Total Female VN: 1,283



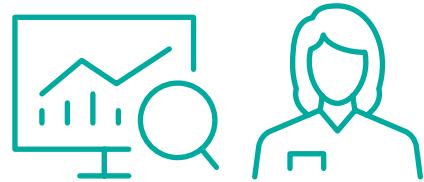
Veterinary Practitioners on the Register

**3,732**

Veterinary Nurses on the Register

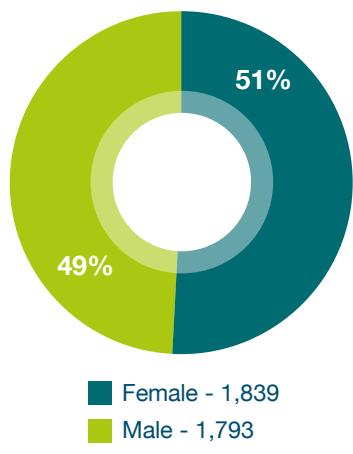
**1,326**

# Statistics from the 2025 Annual Renewals Process

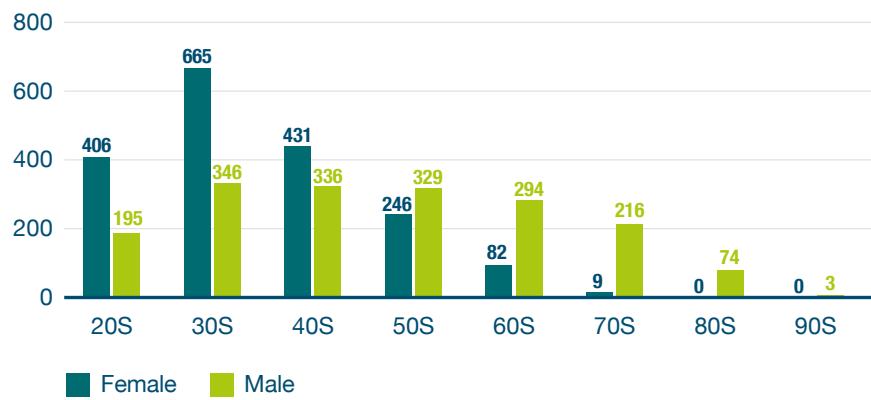


## Registered Veterinary Practitioners

No. of Veterinary Practitioners - 3,632

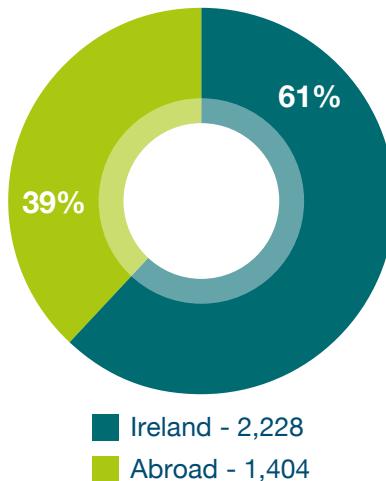


### Age Range



### Place of Graduation

Veterinary Practitioner Primary Practice Field 2025	% Overall
Clinical Practice	69.7%
Government Agency/Local Authority	19.3%
Industry and/or Commerce	2.2%
Research	0.3%
Other	1%
Universities and/or Colleges	3.7%
Retired or Non-Practising	3.8%



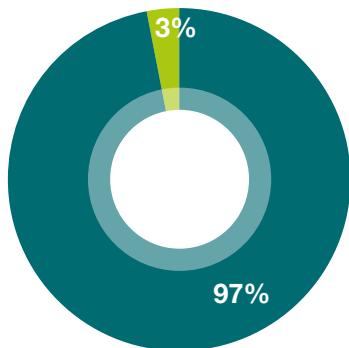
Veterinary Practitioner Clinical Practice Type 2025	% Overall	% Full Time	% Part Time
Companion Animal Practice	40.2%	71.3%	28.7%
Equine Practice	11.3%	78.6%	21.4%
Farm Animal Practice	12.6%	80.7%	19.3%
Mixed Practice	35.9%	87.3%	12.7%

# Statistics from the 2025 Annual Renewals Process

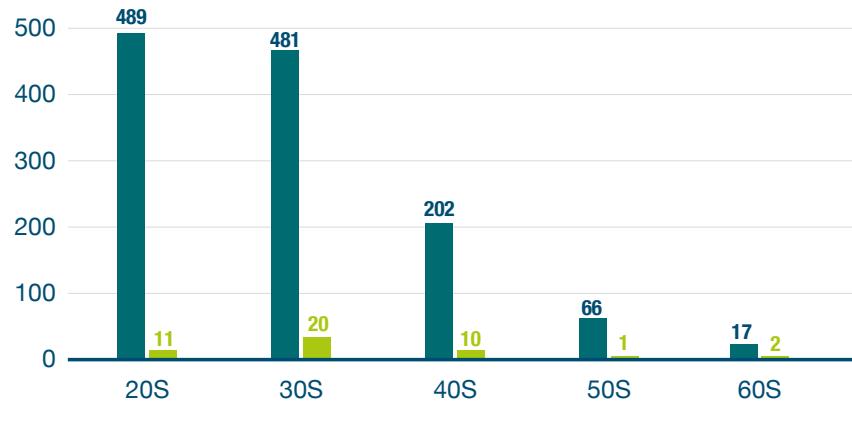


## Registered Veterinary Nurses

No. of Veterinary Nurses - 1,299



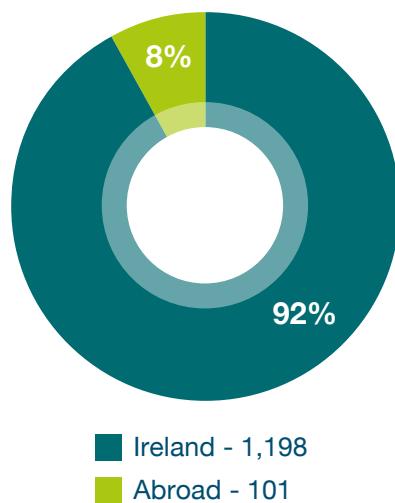
Age Range



Female - 1,225  
Male - 44

Veterinary Nurse Primary Practice Field 2025	% Overall
Clinical Practice	87.5%
Government Agency/Local Authority	0.3%
Industry and/or Commerce	1.7%
Research	0%
Other	2.7%
Universities and/or Colleges	2.9%
Retired or Non-Practising	4.9%

Place of Graduation



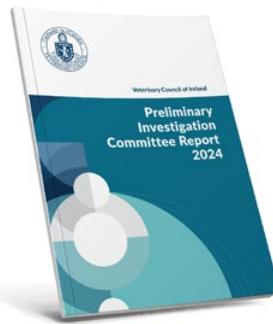
Ireland - 1,198  
Abroad - 101

Veterinary Nurse Clinical Practice Type 2025	% Overall	% Full Time	% Part Time
Companion Animal Practice	70.3%	77.5%	22.5%
Equine Practice	3.1%	87.5%	12.5%
Farm Animal Practice	0.5%	80%	20%
Mixed Practice	26.1%	74%	26%

# Preliminary Investigation Committee Annual Report 2024

The Preliminary Investigation Committee of the Veterinary Council of Ireland (“the PIC”), a statutory committee established under the Veterinary Practice Act 2005, is pleased to publish its Annual Report for the 2024 calendar year. The PIC plays an essential role on behalf of the VCI, serving the interests of the veterinary professions, the public, and animal welfare. Its primary function is to assess whether further action is necessary when the VCI receives a complaint regarding a registered veterinary practitioner or veterinary nurse.

The Annual Report details the activities of the PIC and presents key observations arising from its review of complaints received. Its purpose is to inform both the public and the veterinary profession about the role of the PIC and the insights gained through the execution of its statutory responsibilities. The report is available on the VCI's website [here](#).



## VCI seek Expressions of Interest for panel of Authorised Officers

### The VCI invites applications for inclusion on a panel of Authorised Officers.

The Veterinary Council is an independent statutory body set up under the Veterinary Practice Act 2005 (“the Act”). The principal function is to regulate the practice of veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing in Ireland, in the interest of animal health and welfare and in the public interest.

Under the Act, one of the key functions of the VCI's Council is its investigative function.

The VCI's Council has power to direct an Authorised Officer to carry out an investigation where it has reasonable cause to suspect that (a) that an offence under the Act is being committed or has been committed; and/or (b) a veterinary practitioner or a veterinary nurse is acting in a manner that constitutes professional misconduct.

### Duties and Responsibilities

Authorised Officers work in pairs, at the Council's direction, as independent contractors investigating cases across the country as they arise, and are responsible for their own caseload. Following investigation, Authorised Officers are required to provide a written report to the VCI's Council within 21 days of concluding an investigation.

### How to apply:

An information booklet on the role, qualifications and experience required along with the remuneration offered is available [here](#).

Applications accepted via email only to [info@vci.ie](mailto:info@vci.ie) no later than **12 September 2025**.

## Laser Therapy in Veterinary Practice – The Need for a Risk Assessment

The VCI recently held discussions with the Health and Safety Authority (HSA)—Ireland's national agency responsible for occupational health and safety—to discuss the use of laser therapy in veterinary settings.

### What is Optical Radiation and What Are the Risks of Exposure?

Optical radiation refers to a broad range of light energy, including ultraviolet (UV) radiation, visible light, and infrared radiation. Exposure to UV radiation, particularly to the eyes, can result in damage resembling the sensation of having grit or sand in the eyes. UV exposure can also lead to skin redness, burns, premature ageing, and even skin cancer. High-power lasers pose additional dangers, such as severe eye injuries, potential blindness, and skin burns.

### Where Can I Find Health and Safety Requirements Related to UV Exposure in Veterinary Practices?

The Optical Radiation Directive (Directive 2006/25/EC), issued on 27 April 2006, outlines the minimum health and safety standards concerning workers' exposure to artificial optical radiation.



Ireland has implemented this directive through the [Safety, Health and Welfare at Work \(General Application\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2010 \(Control of Artificial Optical Radiation at Work\)](#) - specifically focused on controlling artificial optical radiation in the workplace.

Certain work tasks can expose staff to hazardous levels of intense light, necessitating appropriate control measures. When lasers are in use, it is legally required to carry out a documented risk assessment. This assessment must identify any hazards related to the laser equipment, evaluate the level of risk involved, and specify the controls needed to minimise those risks.

To support employers in meeting their obligations, the Health and Safety Authority has published the [Guidance for Employers on the Control of Artificial Optical Radiation at Work Regulations 2010](#). This resource helps ensure workplaces are adequately protecting their employees from the dangers associated with high-intensity light sources.

# Updated Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Practitioners

The VCI has updated its Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Practitioners (Code) as a result of the Veterinary Medicinal Products Regulations 2024 (Statutory Instrument No. 462 of 2024) that were signed into law on 12 September 2024 and due to come into effect in September 2025.

The Code applies to all registered veterinary practitioners and is a public declaration of the principles and ethical standards which govern veterinary practitioners in the practise of their profession, and which the public require and expect from veterinary practitioners.

The updated Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Practitioners is available on the VCI's website [here](#).

The key areas of the Code which required amendment and updates are outlined below:

## 1. Chapter 2 (Competent and Appropriate Veterinary Care)

### Client-Patient-Practice Relationship

A paragraph has been inserted on pages 16 – 17 to deal with the prescribing of antiparasitic veterinary medicinal products for non-therapeutic purposes in food-producing animals:

*Where an antiparasitic veterinary medicinal product is prescribed for non-therapeutic purposes to a food producing animal or group of animals pursuant to S.I. No. 462 of 2024 Veterinary Medicinal Product Regulations 2024, the prescribing veterinary practitioner must comply with the requirements of S.I. No. 462 of 2024, including, where necessary, by completing a proper assessment protocol prior to prescribing the antiparasitic veterinary medicinal product. S.I. No. 462 of 2024 and the proper assessment protocol to be completed, where appropriate, can be found at Appendix VI.*

### Telemedicine

Paragraph inserted on page 19 to deal with veterinary telemedicine and the prescribing of antiparasitic veterinary medicinal products for non-therapeutic purposes in food-producing animals:

*Where veterinary telemedicine is used with a view to prescribing an antiparasitic veterinary medicinal product for non-therapeutic purposes to a food producing animal or group of animals pursuant to S.I. No. 462 of 2024 Veterinary Medicinal Products Regulations 2024, the prescribing veterinary practitioner must comply with the requirements of S.I. No. 462 of 2024, including, where necessary, by completing a proper assessment protocol prior to prescribing the antiparasitic veterinary medicinal product. S.I. No. 462 of 2024 and the proper assessment protocol can be found at Appendix VI.*

## 2. Chapter 3 (Animal Health and Welfare)

### 24-Hour Emergency Cover

A paragraph has been inserted on page 22 to deal with the requirement to provide a follow up and emergency after hours clinical service when prescribing of antiparasitic veterinary medicinal products for non-therapeutic purposes in food-producing animals:

*Where a veterinary practitioner has prescribed an antiparasitic veterinary medicinal product for non-therapeutic purposes to a food producing animal or group of animals as provided for in S.I. 462/2024 – Veterinary Medicinal Products Regulations 2024, he or she shall provide a follow up and emergency after hours clinical service relating to any treatment provided and any reported adverse reaction to the product prescribed.*



## 3. Chapter 5 (Guidance on the responsible use of medicinal products)

### Prudent Prescribing and Dispensing

This section has been updated by inserting a paragraph on page 36 to reflect the legal position that an immediate clinical examination is not required in the case of prescriptions issued for antiparasitic veterinary medicinal products for non-therapeutic purposes, pursuant to S.I. No. 462 of 2024 Veterinary Medicinal Products Regulations 2024.

*An immediate clinical examination is not required in the case of prescriptions issued for antiparasitic veterinary medicinal products for non-therapeutic purposes to a food producing animal or group of animals after the completion of a proper assessment protocol in accordance with Regulation 5 of S.I. No. 462 of 2024 Veterinary Medicinal Products Regulations 2024.*

### Use of the National Veterinary Prescription Database

A paragraph has been inserted on page 36 to require compliance with the National Veterinary Prescription Database (the NVPS), as this is a matter of law.

*Veterinary practitioners must comply with the requirements of the National Veterinary Prescription Database.*

### Content of Veterinary Prescription

This section has been updated by inserting a paragraph on pages 36 and 37 which sets out the requirements for electronic prescriptions for medicated feed.

*Electronic prescriptions for medicated feed must contain the elements listed in Annex V to Regulation (EU) 2019/4 as set out in the regulation, reflected in the Code.*

**Record Keeping**

A paragraph has been inserted on page 38 to deal with record keeping requirements for veterinary prescriptions.

*In accordance with regulation 3(5) of S.I. No. 462 of 2024 Veterinary Medicinal Products Regulations 2024, a veterinary practitioner must keep at their registered veterinary premises, records of any medicine requiring a veterinary prescription, which he or she has administered, for 5 years.*

**Product Recall**

A paragraph has been inserted on page 39 to deal with product recall.

*A veterinary practitioner must comply with any instructions provided by the HPRA or the Minister in relation to a product recall.*

**Prescribing in an Emergency**

A paragraph has been inserted on page 40 to deal with prescribing in an emergency.

*Veterinary practitioners should comply with any undertaking they have given to a pharmacist regarding a request for veterinary medicinal products, in emergency situations, if they are not able to provide a veterinary prescription immediately at the time of the request. In this regard, a veterinary practitioner must furnish a veterinary prescription to the pharmacist within 72 hours.*

**4. Appendix VI (Guidance to Registrants: Antiparasitic Veterinary Medicinal Products)**

This guidance noted has been updated from pages 108 to 110 to reflect the requirements of S.I. No. 462 of 2024 Veterinary Medicinal Regulations 2024 and the Proper Assessment Protocol. The updates to the guidance are highlighted in italics below. A copy of the Regulations and Proper Assessment Protocol can be found at Appendix VI of the Code of Professional Conduct.

This guidance is intended to support registrants involved in parasite prevention/control in food producing animals.



## Elective Reproductive Surgery

### Amendment to the Appendix of the Code of Professional Conduct

The Veterinary Council of Ireland ("the Council") has received enquiries from members of the public and registered persons (veterinary practitioners and veterinary nurses) in relation to elective surgical procedures used for the purposes of preventing reproduction in companion animals.

The Council is aware that a wide range of medical and surgical options are available to veterinary practitioners to control and eliminate reproductive function in companion animals. Each option has its own advantages and disadvantages. The promotion of animal welfare dictates that the most suitable option should be selected for individual animals. Veterinary practitioners involved in the selection of such option(s), should advise and act in a manner that promotes and safeguards animal welfare and minimises the risk to the animal while accommodating the requirements of the animal owner.

One issue of concern is the request particularly by cat and dog breeders to perform procedures such as salpingectomy, hysterectomy and vasectomy on companion animals prior to sale. Following such procedures, the commercial breeder can sell a cat or dog that cannot reproduce. However, for each of these procedures, the animal's gonads remain intact.

Subsequently, when the animal is sold, the eventual owner may find the normal behaviour displayed by a cat or dog with intact gonads difficult to manage.

Some owners may decide that the cat or dog should undergo further elective surgery (ovariectomy, ovariohysterectomy or castration) to improve normal day to day management of the animal and/or on health grounds.

**Having considered this issue carefully and received expert opinion, the Veterinary Council's position is as follows:**

As the procedure of salpingectomy, hysterectomy (without removal of the ovaries) or vasectomy is performed for commercial reasons or control of a breed line and not for the benefit of the animal in question, and as it may result in the animal subsequently having to undergo a second surgical procedure, the Council has concluded that performing salpingectomy, hysterectomy (without removal of the ovaries) or vasectomy under such circumstances is unethical.

Veterinary practitioners are qualified and competent to provide the most appropriate advice and select, and perform, the most suitable procedure for each animal and their owner. It is expected that veterinary practitioners would also be in a position to justify their decisions and actions in line with this guideline from the Council which is wholly based on safeguarding animal welfare.

# Prudent Prescribing Guidelines for Veterinary Practitioners

The Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Practitioners (the “Code”) requires that the use and prescribing of all medicinal products by veterinary practitioners should demonstrate prudent practice, which is evidenced in the clinical records, in the interests of animal health, welfare and public health.

The Code can be found on the VCI’s website [here](#).



This responsibility extends to the storage, safekeeping, dispensing, record-keeping and management of animal remedies, including controlled drugs. The Code provides that what constitutes prudent prescribing practice can vary depending on the medicinal product, the species, the number of animals and the environment in which they are treated. Veterinary practitioners should be mindful of the privilege extended to them and the legal requirements that they must comply with where ‘Prescription only Medicines’ animal remedies are concerned.

Veterinary practitioners are reminded of the professional trust placed in them and the legal obligations tied to prescribing and retailing of ‘Prescription Only Medicines’ for animals.

Only attending veterinary practitioners, acting within a pre-existing Client-Patient-Practice-Relationship, may deviate from the requirement of an immediate clinical examination prior to prescribing any treatment, including medicinal products. The duration between the most recent direct clinical examination of the animal(s) and the diagnosis and/or prescribing must be appropriate to the case and the veterinary practitioner must ensure that they have sufficient knowledge of the animal(s)’ current health status in order to diagnose and/or prescribe accurately. This is a matter of clinical judgement for the attending veterinary practitioner. The veterinary practitioner must be in a position to justify any such diagnosis and/or advice/treatments prescribed

and, to this end, should ensure that contemporaneous clinical records that demonstrate ongoing clinical contact with the animals are in existence, together with the ancillary information outlined above, as well as any other information that they deem appropriate.

Referral and newly appointed attending veterinary practitioners must carry out a clinical examination of animal(s) immediately prior to advising on or prescribing a medicinal product to any animal owner (or designated keeper).

The routes of retail for ‘prescription only medicine’ are set out in the Schedule to the Veterinary Medicinal Products, Medicated Feed and Fertilisers Regulation Act 2023. The Schedule to the Act provides that a veterinary medicinal product designated “prescription only” i.e. a POM may only be retailed by:

- a pharmacist from a pharmacy in accordance with a veterinary prescription for the product,
- a veterinarian where the animal to which the product is to be administered is under his or her care and he or she has issued a veterinary prescription for the veterinary medicinal product, or
- subject to regulations made under section 12 (2), a retail responsible person from a premises to which a retailer’s licence relates, if the person has a veterinary prescription relating to the veterinary medicinal product in his or her possession or it is accessible on the national database.

In emergencies, pharmacists may dispense veterinary medicinal products without a prescription. In such cases, if a veterinary practitioner cannot immediately issue a prescription, they must honour any commitment made to the pharmacist and provide the prescription within 72 hours.

The Regulations, guidance and FAQs from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, can be found [here](#).

Veterinary practitioners must familiarise themselves with the conditions of use of medicinal products that they are using. This includes periodically reviewing the package leaflet and/or summary of product characteristics (SPC) of the medicinal product, as this may be amended or updated over time.

Justification for all veterinary prescriptions and especially antimicrobials rests with the prescribing veterinary practitioner. Whether following a clinical or other proper assessment of the health status of the animal(s) by a veterinary practitioner, there should exist contemporaneous veterinary medical records that demonstrate on-going direct clinical contact with the animal(s). These records should provide rational justification for all prescriptions in keeping with current prudent prescribing guidelines and legislation.

## Canine Transvaginal Artificial Insemination



Section 16 of the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 legally restricts procedures which interfere with sensitive tissue or bone structure of an animal unless they are carried out for the purposes of veterinary treatment or are specified in regulations made by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Canine transvaginal artificial insemination (also known as intra-vaginal) insemination is a procedure where fresh or chilled semen is inserted into the bitch’s vagina using an insemination pipette. As the procedure involves interference with sensitive tissue, it is an act of veterinary medicine which should only be undertaken by a veterinary practitioner or veterinary nurse under the direction of a veterinary practitioner. As there is no specific exemption in legislation allowing lay people to undertake this procedure, they are currently legally prohibited from doing so regardless of training or qualifications.

# Ethical Ethel



## Dear Ethel,

I'm a veterinary practitioner working in a very busy practice where anaesthesia monitoring plays a significant role in our day-to-day responsibilities. We are keen to delegate this task in a way that's both efficient and responsible across our team.

At the moment, we are unsure about the extent to which our veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing students on placement can be involved in this process. Since anaesthesia monitoring is both time- and resource-intensive, it would be incredibly helpful if they could contribute, provided it's appropriate.

We would really appreciate some guidance on what is permissible in this context.

Warm regards,

Tony

'WHOA! WAIT, I'M NOT A GUINEA PIG!'



## Dear Tony,

Thank you for your thoughtful question. Students—both veterinary practitioners and veterinary nurses—are valuable contributors to the clinical team and involving them meaningfully during placements helps foster their development and support your practice.

Anaesthesia monitoring is a vital task requiring attention to detail, awareness of risk, and sound clinical judgment. While it can be time- and resource-intensive, students can be involved—if certain safeguards are in place.

The responsibilities and limitations for students are defined under the Veterinary Practice Act 2005 (as amended). According to the Act, a student of veterinary medicine—which includes students of veterinary nursing—may carry out procedures that form part of veterinary medicine only if the following conditions are met:

1. The task is a required part of the student's approved programme of education.
2. The task is performed under the direct supervision and in the presence of a veterinary practitioner.
3. The procedure is considered, by both the educational provider and the supervising veterinary practitioner, to be appropriate to the student's knowledge, skills, and competence.

A “student of veterinary medicine” is defined as anyone who is formally enrolled and actively participating in a Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI) approved programme.

## What to Consider Before Delegating

Before assigning any aspect of anaesthesia monitoring, it's essential to consider:

- ▶ The complexity and risk level of the case.
- ▶ The student's current capabilities and experience.
- ▶ Whether they understand and can respond to potential complications.
- ▶ Whether you, or another vet, can offer consistent direct supervision throughout.

This ensures patient safety while giving students exposure to essential clinical skills in a controlled environment.

## A Note on Non-Registered Team Members

It's important to note that non-registered individuals, such as Animal Care Assistants, cannot legally monitor anaesthesia—regardless of experience or training.

## In Summary

With proper supervision and a thoughtful assessment of each case and student, involving students in anaesthesia monitoring can be a responsible, educational, and practical decision. It's a great way to support learning without compromising patient care.

**All the best,**  
**Ethel**

Your ethical dilemmas are welcome for Ethel's consideration.

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

# UCD Conferring Ceremony for Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Nursing 2025

The Veterinary Council of Ireland's past President, Vivienne Duggan, Registrar Niamh Muldoon along with Council members and the Executive, were pleased to attend the Conferring Ceremony for Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Nursing in University College Dublin (UCD) on the afternoon of 24 June 2025.

The Veterinary Council of Ireland was delighted to present the 'Veterinary Medicine Freeman Memorial Medal' to newly graduated Veterinary Practitioner, Kieran Martin Beirne, MVB and also presented a Veterinary Council of Ireland award to the 'Veterinary Nursing Student of the Year', Eva O'Leary, BScVN.

The Veterinary Council wish to congratulate all the Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Nursing students who have graduated this year from UCD and wish the very best to all the other veterinary graduates from recognised programmes in Ireland and abroad.

We look forward to welcoming new graduates onto our Registers.



Pictured (L-R): Vivienne Duggan, Council Member VCI and Past President VCI; Eva O'Leary, UCD Veterinary Nursing Student of the Year 2025; Niamh Muldoon, CEO and Registrar VCI.



Pictured (L-R): Vivienne Duggan, Council Member VCI and Past President VCI; Kieran Martin Beirne, UCD Veterinary Medicine Freeman Memorial Medal Winner 2025; Niamh Muldoon, CEO and Registrar VCI.

## Cork College of FET Careers Day

The Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI) were pleased to attend the Cork College of Further Education and Training (CCFET) Careers Day, (formerly St. Johns Central College Cork), which took place on campus on 3rd April 2025.

The VCI Registration Manager, Carla Sharkey, delivered a presentation to veterinary nursing students informing them about the role of the VCI as the independent regulator of the veterinary profession; the process involved in registering with the VCI; and highlighting the importance of Continuing Veterinary Education (CVE).

It was a pleasure to meet with the students of the veterinary nursing programme and the VCI would like to thank CCFET for their welcome.



VCI Registration team at Cork College of FET (CCFET) Careers Day.



Pictured: VCI Registration team with students of the veterinary nursing programme at Cork College of FET (CCFET).

# Continuing Veterinary Education Exemption



Continuing veterinary education is required by law for registration with the Veterinary Council, to maintain the competence and skill of the registered person throughout the continuum of their career.

**The VCI CVE Regulations (S.I. No. 577/2020 and S.I. No. 578/2020) require that veterinary practitioners complete 20 CVE credits annually and veterinary nurses complete a minimum of 12 CVE credits annually.**

## Are there reduced CVE requirements for registrants who don't practise for the full year?

In accordance with the Veterinary Council of Ireland Continuing Veterinary Education Regulations 2020, a registrant who does not practise or ceases to practise for more than 12 consecutive weeks during a CVE Year may apply to the Council to have their CVE requirements reduced if it is for one of the following reasons:

- ▶ Maternity leave
- ▶ Parental leave
- ▶ Carer's leave
- ▶ Adoptive leave
- ▶ Illness or medical disability
- ▶ Illness or medical disability of a family member
- ▶ Other substantive reasons

Applications for such CVE exemptions may be made by completion of the application form and returned to the VCI for consideration by 1st September 2025 (form available [here](#)). The VCI recognises that personal circumstances arise from time to time that may hinder an individual's capacity to undergo the required level of credits, and such exemptions provide for these circumstances in appropriate cases.

## Are there any exemptions from CVE requirements?

A registrant who, during the CVE Year, participates in a postgraduate or residency programme which relates to the practice of veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing is automatically deemed to have fulfilled their CVE requirements for the duration of the year (or years) that they are enrolled. Such registrants must retain evidence of their enrolment on a programme for auditing purposes.

Further information available from [www.vci.ie](http://www.vci.ie) or by email to [education@vci.ie](mailto:education@vci.ie)

# VCI's Conjoint Committee members' attend FVE General Assembly June 2025



**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 veterinarians working in education, research and industry (EVERI).

Niamh Muldoon VCI Registrar, Aideen Neylon VCI Head of Legal and representatives of the Conjoint Committee attended this year's General Assembly which took place in Leuven, Belgium from 26 – 28 June 2025.

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



*Pictured (L-R): Seamus McManus, Chair Conjoint Committee VCI; Dr Mike Topper, Director International Affairs, American Veterinary Medical Association; Aideen Neylon, Head of Legal VCI, Dr Seán Ó Laoide, Conjoint Committee VCI; Finbarr Murphy, Chief Executive Veterinary Ireland; Mark McCarthy, Past President Veterinary Officers Association and Conjoint Committee VCI representative.*

## FVE Leaflet on use of the Cascade

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, state officers, food safety and veterinary public health, statutory bodies and veterinarians working in education, research and industry.

The FVE has created a new guide for veterinary professionals to use as support for compliance with the EU's Veterinary Medicines Regulation (**Regulation (EU) 2019/6**). The guide offers a flowchart to refer to when navigating the prescription "cascade" outlined in articles 112-114 of the Regulation. The term "cascade" refers to a system for prescribing veterinary medicinal products in exceptional circumstances when no authorised veterinary medicinal product is available for a particular animal or condition. This "cascade" system provides a framework for veterinary practitioners to make informed decisions about treatment options while prioritising animal health and welfare and also upholding regulatory requirements. It ensures that veterinary practitioners can legally prescribe medicines off-label in specific situations, when it is necessary and appropriate.

For further information and to access the new guide please click [here](#).

## Update on Building refurbishment/extension project 53 Lansdowne Road

The refurbishment and extension of the VCI offices at 53 Lansdowne Road is well underway with the new pavilion building taking shape at the rear of the office. The Veterinary Council were successful in obtaining planning permission, granted by Dublin City Council in December 2023 for works to the VCI offices at 53 Lansdowne Road. Planning permission provides for the maintenance and refurbishment of the existing period offices, with the addition of an extension to provide a single-story Council chamber to the rear of the existing offices at 53 Lansdowne Road.

This will enable Council meetings and other committee meetings to be convened in 53 Lansdowne Road, while also maintaining the upkeep and condition of the current period offices. Repairs to the chimneys on 53 Lansdowne have also been commissioned, along with the replacement of the windows to the façade of the building. The executive team will work remotely for a number of weeks throughout the summer, to allow for the internal office refurbishment and repairs to be carried out.

This project which commenced in January 2025 will enable the continued independence and privacy for Council in conducting their business and discharging statutory duties, from an accessible building.

The capital expenditure being invested by the Veterinary Council in this initiative is drawn from VCI reserves, such funds being separate and distinct from our annual income and expenditure, reserved for capital projects such as this. We expect the works to conclude in April 2025.



Façade.



Rear new boardroom.

# Upcoming safeTALK Training Sessions on Mental Health and Suicide Awareness

safeTALK is an internationally recognised half-day training programme that prepares participants to recognise and engage with people who may be having thoughts of suicide and to connect them to suicide first aid resources. safeTALK-trained helpers can recognise these invitations for help and take action by supporting people to connect with life-saving resources, supports and services.

The training is provided by the HSE's National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) who have previously partnered with the Veterinary Council in Ireland in providing training specifically for veterinary practice staff with sessions taking place in Cork, Dublin, Galway, Kerry, Mayo and Roscommon.

For further information on the training please read the [safeTALK information leaflet](#).

NOSP hold regular open safeTALK trainings sessions throughout the country which are open to anyone to attend. The safeTALK training on mental health and suicide awareness is free of charge, but please note pre-registration is required.

A list of the upcoming open safeTALK training sessions are listed below, with dates, locations and links to book.

There is also an online training programme "Let's Talk About Suicide" which might assist those unable to attend in person training. This can be access through the following link – <https://traininghub.nosp.ie/>

## Upcoming Sessions in 2025

### September

- ▶ SafeTALK Training, Wednesday, 10 September 2025, 1:30pm – 5pm, Torc Community & Family Resource Centre CLG, (Formerly known as Ballyspillane Community & Family Resource Centre CLG), Ballyspillane Estate, Killarney, Co. Kerry, V93 FD1H - [book here](#)
- ▶ SafeTALK Training, Tuesday, 16 September 2025, 9:30am – 1pm, Bloomfield House Hotel, Leisure Club & Spa, Lynn, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, N91 HP8E - [book here](#)
- ▶ SafeTALK Training, Friday, 19 September 2025, 9:30am – 1pm, Kilmore Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Cullies, Co. Cavan, H12 E5C7 - [book here](#)

### October

- ▶ SafeTALK Training, Wednesday, 8 October 2025, 2pm – 5:30pm, Listowel Family Resource Centre, John B. Keane Road, Ballygowlodge, Listowel, Co. Kerry - [book here](#)

## SIMPLE GUIDE

## How to report adverse events?

As a **veterinarian or other animal healthcare professional**, you are key for reporting suspected adverse events. Here's a simple guide to adverse event reporting in the European Union:

### STEP 1: WHAT TO REPORT

- a. **All suspected adverse events** in animals after using veterinary medicines:
  - ▶ when a treatment or a vaccine has not worked
  - ▶ including off-label use
  - ▶ even if stated in the product information.
- b. **All suspected adverse events in people** exposed to a veterinary medicine or a treated animal.
- c. **All suspected adverse events** after using human medicines in animals.



Safer medicines, healthy animals.  
**Report adverse events!**

#VetMedSafetyDay



Veterinarians should also report **environmental incidents**, high product residues in foods and suspected transmission of infectious agents.

### STEP 2: WHERE TO REPORT

- ▶ The HPRA using the online reporting form available on the [HPRA's website](#), or
- ▶ To the company responsible for the product (contact details are listed on the product information).

**Every report counts towards the data monitored, ensuring the safety of veterinary medicines.** If new risks are identified, measures can be taken, such as new warnings added to the product information. Very rarely veterinary medicines are suspended or withdrawn.



# 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](mailto:jo@samaritans.ie)
- ▶ Visit [www.samaritans.ie](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.aware.ie)
- ▶ Email: [supportmail@aware.ie](mailto: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](mailto:@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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:info@ivbf.ie)

Website: [www.ivbf.ie](http://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**

## Independent, confidential and free help for the veterinary community

including vets, veterinary nurses (whether practising or not) and their dependents.

### VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

[www.ivbf.ie](http://www.ivbf.ie)



Whatever life throws at you, we will support you.  
The VetLife helpline is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

**CALL VetLife NOW 1800 145 145**



## Contact us

>Veterinary Council of Ireland,  
53 Lansdowne Road,  
Ballsbridge,  
Dublin 4 D04 NY29.

[info@vci.ie](mailto:info@vci.ie)

[www.vci.ie](http://www.vci.ie)

## Follow the Veterinary Council of Ireland on social media

The Veterinary Council of Ireland is now active on X and LinkedIn. If you have an X and/or a LinkedIn account and would like to keep up to date on important news and announcements from the VCI, please follow our page(s).

X [@of\\_veterinary](#)

LinkedIn [Veterinary Council of Ireland](#)