



A note from the Veterinary Council

VCI Elections 2025

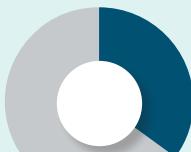
The Veterinary Council held the elections on a virtual platform for the first time this year, dispensing with the paper postal ballot in favour of an electronic vote. The VCI partnered with Mi-Voice, an objective, independent and experienced external service provider of electronic voting services.

The Veterinary Council began the VCI Elections 2025 in August of this year. The term of office of 6 elected members of Council will terminate on 31 December 2025. In accordance with the provisions of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005 (as amended), an election for 5 Veterinary Practitioners and 1 Veterinary Nurse to the Veterinary Council took place.

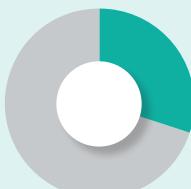
We thank and commend all candidates who participated in the election. Willingness to contribute to veterinary regulation in the public interest is both valued and respected.

We would also like to thank all those who voted, with a welcome increased voter turnout at 35% of vets and 30% of nurses casting a vote in our electronic elections this year. In comparison to the 2023 Veterinary Practitioner Election when 22% of vets cast a vote.

Increased voter turnout for VCI Elections 2025



35%
of Veterinary Practitioners voted



30%
of Veterinary Nurses voted

We confirm that the following Veterinary Practitioners were declared elected following the count on the 15 October 2025.



John Donlon
(91/18)



Eimer McGrath
(61/19)



Caroline Garvan
(30/93)



Joseph Walsh
(62/89)



Andrew Byrne
(10/85)

We confirm that the following Veterinary Nurse was declared elected following the count on the 15 October 2025.



Alan Gallagher
(10476/10)

Consultation on Draft Accreditation Standards 2025



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 1 2025, 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 was open until 11 September 2025, and the Veterinary Council received 20 submissions. 357 responses and submissions were received in our Premises Accreditation Standards consultation, in contrast to the 20 submissions received on the accreditation for programmes of veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing in Ireland consultation.

The Veterinary Council would like to thank those who submit feedback as it helps to inform the continuing enhancement of accreditation standards. The Veterinary Council anticipate the accreditation standards will be finalised by the end of this year.

Yours sincerely,

The Veterinary Council

Veterinary Council Accreditation of Undergraduate Programmes of Education

The Veterinary Council of Ireland is the statutory body responsible for regulating the veterinary professions. As part of this role, the Council accredits education programmes in Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Nursing.

Professional accreditation is distinct from academic accreditation

Professional accreditation for any profession is a judgment as to whether a programme prepares one for entry into that profession. It is distinct from academic accreditation, which is based on the suitability of a programme for award of a degree/diploma by the awarding academic institution. Professional accreditation is distinguished by the existence of standards that are specific to the profession, these standards and day one competencies having been defined in consultation with stakeholders.

Graduates of accredited programmes eligible to join the VCI Register

Professional accreditation by the Veterinary Council affords an opportunity for Higher Education institutions to demonstrate that they are providing quality programmes of veterinary education which are designed and delivered in line with the Veterinary Council's professional accreditation standards.

Programmes of education in veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing accredited by the Veterinary Council afford eligibility to the graduates of such programmes, to join the register of Veterinary Practitioners and Veterinary Nurses. Accreditation ensures that students are undergoing programmes of study that fulfil the essential knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to begin their professional careers competently.

A panel of experts, national and international, across disciplines such as public health, food safety, veterinary practice, research and education, will be appointed by the Veterinary Council to undertake accreditation visitations to programmes of veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing education.

Accreditation of new programmes determined only once first cohort of students complete the programme

Accreditation is a thorough process that involves reviewing the entire education programme—from start to finish. The Council must assess the programme's learning outcomes and assessments in full in the cycle of the programme. Accordingly, full accreditation may only be granted once the first cohort of students have completed the cycle of the programme, allowing the Council to assess the programme's learning outcomes and assessments in full throughout the cycle of the programme.

New programmes of education may obtain determination of accreditation status once the first cohort of students complete and graduate the programme. Thus, accreditation status for any new programme of education of veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing cannot guarantee accreditation status for the early cohorts of students.

New programmes of veterinary medicine will be subject to an preliminary accreditation visit in year one, three and five of the programme. The full accreditation visit in year five of a new programme of veterinary medicine will determine the status of the programme, and whether it is suitable to be accredited for the graduates of the programme to gain eligibility to the Veterinary Council register.

The Veterinary Council will engage with any new applicant programmes of veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing following application by the applicant programme for Veterinary Council accreditation to seek reasonable assurance prior to enrolment of any students, however, potential students must appreciate that such programmes bear an inherent risk in relation to accreditation status which can only be determined as the first cohort of students graduate the programme.

A list of current accredited programmes in Ireland in veterinary medicine available and veterinary nursing available [here](#)

Further information available on www.vci.ie and by email to info@vci.ie



Information on the 2026 Registration Renewal Process



The 2026 Registration Renewal Process will commence shortly. Registrants will receive their renewal notification by email mid-November 2025. Any Registrant who wishes to continue to practise on 1 January 2026 is required by law to renew their registration by returning their Registration Renewal Form along with the relevant fee prior to 31 December 2025.

Important

Keep your email address up to date

All renewal notifications and login details for the 2026 registration renewal process will be sent directly to the email address you have provided to the VCI.

To ensure you receive your renewal details on time:

- ▶ Please make sure the email address listed on your account is your own direct email address, not a practice or shared inbox.
- ▶ If your email address has changed, or you would like to update it, please contact us at arf@vci.ie or call 01 668 4402.

This will help avoid any delays in receiving your renewal notification and ensure your registration is processed without interruption.

Notice of Increase of Registration Fees

The Veterinary Council has recently completed a review of its registration fees to ensure they continue to reflect the costs of maintaining high standards of professional regulation and service delivery. As part of this review, adjustments to registration fees will take effect from 1 January 2026 for the renewal of registration for veterinary practitioners, veterinary nurses, and registered veterinary premises. The previous review was undertaken in 2021, and since then, inflation and rising operational costs have made an update necessary to support the Council's ongoing work on behalf of the profession and the public and its ability to meet its strategic objectives.

How much is the increase for Registrants?

The Veterinary Council's 2026 Annual Registration Renewal of Registration fees have increased. The Annual Renewal of Registration fee for veterinary practitioners has increased from €505 to €550 and the fee for veterinary nurses has increased from €225 to €245. Payment of the registration renewal fee enables retention on the register in the new practise year, permitting those registered to continue to practise their profession in the State in 2026 from 1 January to 31 December. The increase in the annual renewal fees for veterinary practitioners and veterinary nurses is an increase of c. 8.9% which is approximately half the 17.5% rate of Consumer Price Inflation which was recorded in Ireland from January 2022 to September 2025.

How much is the increase for COS Holders?

The fee to renew a Certificate of Suitability (COS) under the Council's Premises Accreditation Scheme (PAS) has also increased. This is a fee for the certification and registration of a veterinary practice premises for a four-year cycle.

How can I access my registration renewal form?

For 2026, registrants will be able to complete their registration renewal form online through the VCI's registrant portal. This is the fastest and most convenient way to renew for each registrant.

All registrants will receive an email with details on how to log in and complete the registration renewal form. If a registrant requires a hard copy of the form, or if an alternative arrangement is needed, this can be requested by contacting the office on 01 668 4402 or by emailing arf@vci.ie

How can I pay my registration renewal fee?

The online registration renewal form will contain a payment portal to enable secure payment of the fee by debit or credit card.

Registrants will also have the option of paying the fee through the VCI homepage. A receipt will automatically issue to the registrant's email address by using this payment method. Payment of the fee by cheque (payable in euro only), delivered to VCI Offices at 53 Lansdowne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, with registration number written clearly on the back, will also be accepted.

If an employer is discharging the fee, the registrant can indicate this in their renewal form. If an employer wishes to pay the fee on behalf of their employees, they can proceed to pay through the Council's website, by cheque, or by requesting an invoice to arf@vci.ie. Registrants are reminded that they must complete their own registration renewal form, even if payment is being provided by their employer.

Should you have any queries in relation to the annual renewal of registration process, please contact the office on 01 668 4402, or via email to arf@vci.ie and a member of our team will be pleased to assist you.

Previously, all premises were charged the same fee of €1250 regardless of the type of premises classification. The new COS fee model introduces differentiated fees according to premises classification. This ensures that fees are proportionate to the complexity and regulatory requirements associated with each classification type and cross-subsidisation between premises types is avoided.

Classification	Four Year COS Renewal Fee
Registered Veterinary Office	€1,600
Registered Veterinary Clinic	€1,700
Registered Veterinary Hospital	€2,300
Registered Veterinary Facility	€2,000
Registered Mobile Veterinary Unit	€1,600
Registered Mobile Veterinary Unit (Charity)	€1,600

The fee ensures costs are covered in relation to a four-year registration period and the inspection of the premises by independent authorised officers who are instructed by the Veterinary Council to ensure compliance with the PAS Standards.

The Veterinary Council carries out routine revisit inspections to approximately 25% of registered veterinary premises annually. The Council contracts a team of independent authorised officers, or "Premises Assessors", to carry out inspections at registered premises in the State on a regular basis, ensuring appropriate standards in veterinary premises in the State in the public interest. Premises Assessors are trained regularly by the Council to ensure competency in carrying out inspections on behalf of the Council and all associated training costs are covered by the Council.

The updated process for the renewal of a COS enables Certificate Holders the option to complete and submit the renewal application form electronically to facilitate a faster and more convenient COS Renewal application process in 2025.

Reminder: Introduction of New Premises Accreditation Scheme Requirement



Registered Veterinary Nurse to be available at all existing Registered Veterinary Hospitals from 1 January 2026.

In June 2023 the Veterinary Council of Ireland conducted a public consultation on the proposed introduction of a new mandatory requirement under the Council's Premises Accreditation Scheme, for all premises registered in the Registered Veterinary Hospital classification to have at least one Registered Veterinary Nurse associated with the Hospital, to provide veterinary nursing care at the premises.

Following consideration of the responses received, the Council determined to adopt the new mandatory requirement for all premises registered in the Registered Veterinary Hospital classification to have at least one Registered Veterinary Nurse available to provide veterinary nursing care at the premises.

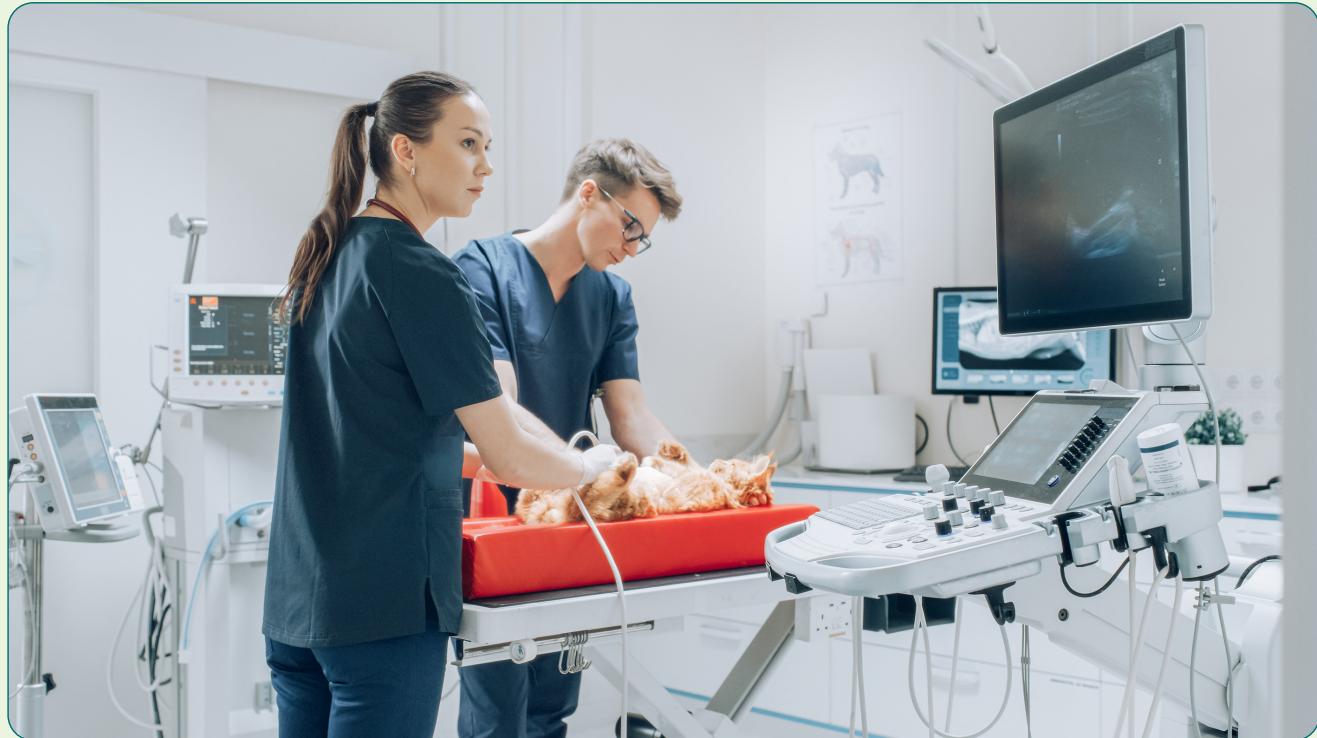
The requirement is founded in the interests of animal health and welfare and in reflecting public expectation for standards of care delivered at Registered Veterinary Hospitals. Most Registered Veterinary Hospitals already have the benefit of a Registered Veterinary Nurse being associated with the practice premises.

The requirement is that a Registered Veterinary Nurse must be part of the hospital veterinary team, but they do not need to be available at the premises 24/7.

The new requirement has been implemented for all new Registered Veterinary Hospitals from 1 January 2024 and will be implemented for all existing Registered Veterinary Hospitals from 1 January 2026.

Registered Veterinary Hospitals that cannot or do not wish to comply with the new requirement will have the option to change the classification of the premises. While it is recommended that veterinary nurse services are available at any premises where animals are treated, the Registered Veterinary Clinic classification currently enables the delivery of surgical services, laboratory services, and radiography services without the mandatory requirement for the availability of a Registered Veterinary Nurse.

All queries in relation to the new requirement and the Premises Accreditation Scheme can be sent by email to pas@vci.ie or please contact the VCI offices by phone on 01 6684402 and a member of the Executive team will be happy to assist you.



Premises Accreditation Scheme Consultation

Thank you for taking part



As part of its ongoing review of the Premises Accreditation Scheme (PAS), the Council conducted a Public Stakeholder Consultation on the Premises Accreditation Scheme. The PAS consultation survey issued by email to stakeholders on 1 August 2025. The consultation survey was also published on the VCI website, social media pages and a notice was included in the Summer 2025 VCI newsletter. The consultation ran for four weeks until 29 August 2025.

The Council extends its sincere gratitude to everyone who took the time to participate and to those who carefully considered the topics set out in the consultation.

All feedback received is now being reviewed and analysed by the Council as part of its ongoing work on the PAS. A summary report will be published later this year, once the review has concluded, and in advance of the 2026–2029 Certificate of Suitability renewal process.

Reminder: A Certificate of Suitability is Mandatory Before Opening a Veterinary Practice



The Council wishes to remind all Registrants that it is not permitted to open or operate a veterinary practice until the Council has granted a Certificate of Suitability (COS) for the premises. Operating a practice without a valid COS constitutes a breach of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005, as amended, and may give rise to disciplinary action.

All Registrants intending to establish a new practice, must ensure that an application for a COS has been submitted to the Council and that formal approval has been received before opening the premises to the public.

Further guidance, including COS application forms and details of the requirements, is available on the Council's website [here](#).

Reminder of Responsibilities for Certificate of Suitability Holders



The Veterinary Council of Ireland wishes to take this opportunity to remind Certificate of Suitability (COS) Holders of their ongoing responsibilities and to acknowledge the vital role they play in maintaining high standards in veterinary practice.

When a veterinary premises has been registered by the Council, a Certificate of Suitability with a unique registration number for the premises is issued to the Registrant who made the application. The Registrant is the "COS Holder". The COS Holder is a person who holds a suitable/significant position of authority within the veterinary practice, which empowers them to discharge all COS Holder responsibilities.

The COS Holder is the Council's point of contact in relation to the practice premises and in respect of the Premises Accreditation Scheme (PAS). The COS Holder is responsible for ensuring that the practice is compliant with the PAS Regulations and PAS Standards in the premises registered classification.

Where multiple Certificates are held, COS Holders are expected to maintain direct knowledge of and influence over the clinical services provided at each premises. This requirement highlights the confidence placed in COS Holders' professional judgment and the importance of their oversight role.

As part of the COS application process, applicants must sign a series of declarations that remain binding commitments, including:

- ▶ Confirming that they will practise at and/or from any premises for which they are the COS Holder.
- ▶ Confirming the premises is suitable for veterinary practice and ensuring compliance with PAS Regulations and PAS Standards.
- ▶ Ensuring only registered veterinary practitioners and registered veterinary nurses practise at or from the premises.
- ▶ Maintaining a 24-hour emergency service in line with the Code of Professional Conduct.
- ▶ Ensuring compliance with planning regulations, biosecurity measures, and safe management of animal remedies.
- ▶ Overseeing proper record-keeping, confidentiality, and secure transfer of clinical records where necessary.

These commitments are a reflection of the professionalism and integrity expected of COS Holders in safeguarding animal welfare, supporting colleagues, and protecting the public interest.

The Council greatly values the dedication and cooperation of COS Holders across the country and thanks you for your continued contribution to the veterinary profession.

Premises Accreditation Scheme



Frequently Asked Questions

This guidance provides information on where veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing can be practised in the Republic of Ireland, and what Registered Veterinary Practitioners and Registered Veterinary Nurses must do to inform the Veterinary Council of Ireland of their practice arrangements.

1. Where can I practise veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing in the Republic of Ireland?

Section 106 of the Act lists where a registered person may practise. This includes:

- A. A registered veterinary premises to which a Certificate of Suitability applies,
- B. A State premises,
- C. A premises, including a farm, that is under the control of the person who owns the animal or who for the time being has custody of the animal that is under the care of a registered practitioner, which registered practitioner usually practises veterinary medicine at a premises to which a certificate of suitability applies,
- D. An exempted place,
- E. A place where an emergency veterinary procedure is performed.

It is an offence for a registered person to contravene this section of the Act.

2. What is a registered veterinary premises?

A registered veterinary premises is a premises located in the Republic of Ireland which has been granted a Certificate of Suitability by the Veterinary Council of Ireland ("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. This Registrant is called the "COS Holder".

All veterinary practitioners and veterinary nurses who practise veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing in the Republic of Ireland, whether treating animals owned by the public, friends, family, or themselves, must do so at or from a registered veterinary premises with a valid Certificate of Suitability. They must also associate themselves with that premises by submitting a Premises Accreditation Scheme ("PAS") Declaration to the Council.

3. What is a State Premises?

Section 105 of the Act defines a "State premises" as a veterinary premises under the control of:

- A. A Minister of the Government,
- B. A local authority.

4. What is an Exempted Place?

Section 105 of the Act defines an "exempted place" as a place where the practice of veterinary medicine by a registered practitioner occurs:

- A. Under regulations made under the [European Communities Act 1972](#),
- B. By or under an Act that relates to—
 - (i) export or slaughter of animals,
 - (ii) export of meat, or
- C. Under regulations made under [section 107 of the Act](#).

5. What is a PAS Declaration?

A Premises Accreditation Scheme ("PAS") Declaration provides the Council with information about where a Registered Veterinary Practitioner or Registered Veterinary Nurse is practising in the Republic of Ireland, whether that be at a registered veterinary premises, State premises or exempted place. It also informs the Council about registered persons who are not currently practising in the State. For example, this may include individuals who are retired, working in a non-practising role, or working in another country.

6. What is the legal basis/statutory background in relation to PAS Declarations?

In accordance with the Council's [Premises Accreditation Scheme Regulations](#), established under [Section 108](#) of the Act, all Registered Veterinary Practitioners and Registered Veterinary Nurses are required to submit a PAS Declaration to the Council and update it as required.

7. When should I submit a PAS Declaration to the Council?

PAS Declarations should be completed in any of the following circumstances:

- When joining the Register of Veterinary Practitioners or Veterinary Nurses for the first time
- When restoring your name to the Register following removal
- When renewing your annual registration on the Register
- Whenever you commence a new job at a Registered Veterinary Premises
- Whenever you commence a new job at a State premises or exempted place
- Whenever you cease to practise veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing in the Republic of Ireland, but wish to remain on the Register

Depending on a Registrant's circumstances, more than one PAS Declaration may be required if they are practising at multiple registered veterinary premises and/or at a State premises or exempted place.

8. I locum for several different registered veterinary premises, how should I fill out my PAS Declaration?

You are required to provide the details of each registered veterinary premises you practise veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing at or from.

9. I only carry out meat inspection duties. What should I include on my PAS Declaration?



Premises where a Registered Veterinary Practitioner carries out acts of veterinary medicine related to the export or slaughter of animals, or the export of meat, are classified as exempted places under the Act. Therefore, if you are performing meat inspection duties, you are considered to be practising at an exempted place and must provide the Council with the name and address of the premises when completing your PAS Declaration.

10. Can I practise veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing in respect of my own animals, or animals belonging to members of the public if I am only practising at/from a State Premises or an Exempted Place?

No. Veterinary practitioners and veterinary nurses associated with a State premises or exempted place who practise veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing in the Republic of Ireland, whether treating animals owned by the public, friends, family, or themselves, must do so at or from a registered veterinary premises with a valid Certificate of Suitability. They must also associate themselves with that premises by submitting a PAS Declaration to the Council.

There are also professional obligations under the Council's Code of Professional Conduct for [Veterinary Practitioners](#) and for [Veterinary Nurses](#) that must be adhered to. Chapter 2 of the Code for Veterinary Practitioners provides that all animals under veterinary care fall within a Client-Patient-Practice-Relationship ("CPPR"). The Code defines this as an agreement between an animal owner (or designated keeper) and a veterinary practitioner(s) within a veterinary practice to provide veterinary services that demonstrate real and ongoing clinical veterinary practitioner/animal contact. The Code also 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. This extends to the storage, safekeeping, dispensing, record-keeping and management of animal remedies, including controlled drugs. The Code for Veterinary Nurses requires them to ensure that they are aware of what a CPPR is and of the roles that consulting and referral veterinary practitioners play.

11. I practise at/from a veterinary premises located in Northern Ireland. Can I practise veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing in the Republic of Ireland?

To legally practise veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing in the Republic of Ireland, you must be registered with the Council and practise at or from a veterinary premises registered with the Council, unless you are practising at or from a State premises or an exempted place.

Veterinary premises located in Northern Ireland are not considered a State premises or exempted place under the Act. Additionally, premises located outside of the Republic of Ireland, including Northern Ireland, cannot be registered with the Council, as they fall outside the Council's jurisdiction.

12. What is a non-practising veterinary practitioner or veterinary nurse?

A non-practising veterinary practitioner or veterinary nurse is any person registered with the Council, who is not carrying out the practice of veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing in the Republic of Ireland. In other words, if you are not practising veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing in the Republic of Ireland then you are considered "non-practising".

For example, registered persons who are retired, or who are working in roles which do not involve the practice of veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing are considered "non-practising". Similarly, registered persons who are practising veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing solely outside of the Republic of Ireland are also considered "non-practising" in terms of the Council's PAS.

13. Can I practise veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing in respect of my own animals, or animals belonging to members of the public if I have declared that I am non-practising/retired?

No. Veterinary practitioners and veterinary nurses who declare they are "non-practising" or "retired" but who practise veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing in the Republic of Ireland, whether treating animals owned by the public, friends, family, or themselves, must do so at or from a registered veterinary premises with a valid Certificate of Suitability. They must also associate themselves with that premises by submitting a PAS Declaration to the Council. In such cases, a declaration that you are "non-practising" or "retired" is incorrect.

There are also professional obligations under the Council's Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Practitioners and for Veterinary Nurses that must be adhered to, as referenced above under question 10.

14. What are Registrants required to do to remain in compliance with the PAS Declaration requirements?

Each Registrant is required to provide a PAS Declaration upon joining the Register of Veterinary Practitioners or Veterinary Nurses, declaring if and where in the State they are practising.

If their practice arrangement changes during the course of their registration, they must update the Council as soon as possible by submitting a new PAS Declaration. It is essential that Registrants provide the Council with complete and up to date information in relation to their PAS Declarations.

Registrants are also asked to provide updated PAS Declaration information annually upon the renewal of their registration with the Council.

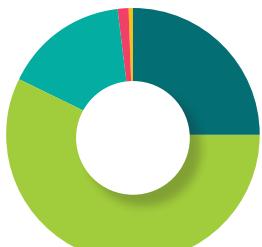
Please note that any new PAS Declaration will supersede any previously submitted PAS Declaration, unless otherwise stated by the Registrant.

Contact

For more information on the Council's Premises Accreditation Scheme, please contact the Council's Executive office by email to pas@vci.ie, or by phone on 01 6684402. Additional information is also available on the Council's website, www.vci.ie.

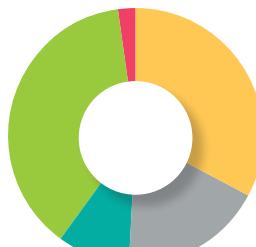
Statistics from the Veterinary Premises Register September 2025

Total Registered Veterinary Premises – 776



Breakdown by Classification

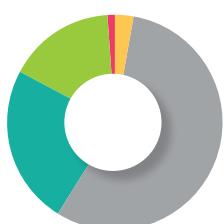
- Registered Veterinary Offices – 196
- Registered Veterinary Clinics – 444
- Registered Veterinary Hospitals – 122
- Registered Veterinary Facilities – 10
- Registered Mobile Veterinary Units (Charities) – 4



Overall Breakdown by Practice Profile

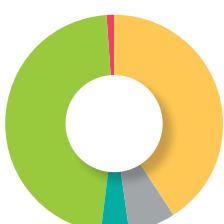
- Companion Animal – 33%
- Farm Animal – 18%
- Equine – 9%
- Mixed Practice – 38%
- Other – 2%

Breakdown of Registered Veterinary Premises by Practice Profile



Registered Veterinary Offices - 196

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



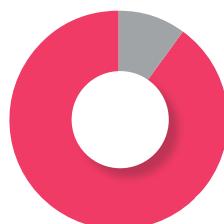
Registered Veterinary Clinics - 444

- Companion Animal – 41%
- Farm Animal – 7%
- Equine – 4%
- Mixed Practice – 47%
- Other – 1%



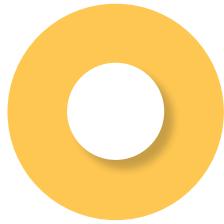
Registered Veterinary Hospitals - 122

- Companion Animal – 52%
- Farm Animal – 0
- Equine – 6%
- Mixed Practice – 42%
- 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

September 2025

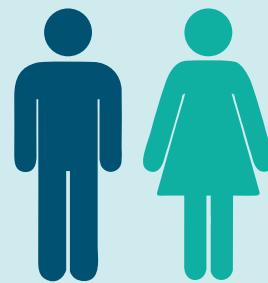
Veterinary Practitioner New Entries

287

Veterinary Nurses New Entries

127

Total Number of Male and Female VP and VN



Total Male VP: 1,832

Total Male VN: 43

Total Female VP: 1,978

Total Female VN: 1,317

Veterinary Practitioners on the Register

3,810

Veterinary Nurses on the Register

1,360

Professional Indemnity Insurance



To practise as a veterinary practitioner or a veterinary nurse, you must have professional indemnity insurance in place.

In accordance with S.I. No. 576/2020 Veterinary Council of Ireland Indemnity Insurance Regulations 2020, all veterinary practitioners and veterinary nurses must have appropriate cover in place that covers them for any risks associated with their area of work.

What does appropriate cover mean?

It means a level of professional indemnity insurance cover against liabilities that may be incurred arising from the practice of veterinary medicine, taking into account the nature and extent of the risks associated with the practice, that is sufficient to meet all liabilities that may be incurred if a successful claim is made.

The cover must be in force by the time you begin to practise. It is each registrant's responsibility to ensure that they have appropriate indemnity arrangements for all aspects of their practice. The Veterinary Council does not offer guidance about what would be considered adequate scope and funding of indemnity cover. These are both aspects that you must consider. If you are unsure, you should check with your employer or indemnity provider.

What information or evidence would I need to provide about my indemnity arrangements, if requested?

We may ask you for further information about your indemnity arrangements. Each registrant will need to know the details of their indemnity cover and provide us with these if requested.

A registered person must within 14 days of a request by the Veterinary Council, provide the evidence of his or her policy of professional indemnity insurance including a certificate from his or her insurer, broker or indemnity provider. This certificate must be in English and state:

- (a) the name of the policyholder or person indemnified,
- (b) the period of cover of the insurance policy or indemnity,
- (c) the area(s) of practice covered by the policy or indemnity,
- (d) any geographical limits to the cover provided by the insurance policy or indemnity, and
- (e) the level of indemnity provided.

What could happen if I was unable to provide evidence of professional indemnity insurance?

Where a registered person does not provide the certificate of professional indemnity cover within 14 days of being requested to do so, the Veterinary Council of Ireland may take whatever action it considers appropriate, including applying for an inquiry into the fitness to practise of the registered person.

Who does this requirement not apply to?

The requirement to have a policy of indemnity insurance does not apply to a registered person in so far as the registered person is, for the time being, acting as an officer or employee of, under contract to, or otherwise with the authorisation of, a Minister of the Government, a local authority or a body established by or under statute (other than a company established under the Companies Act 2014).

I am an employee. Do I need additional indemnity cover?

Being covered by an employer's indemnity arrangements does not exempt you from the requirement to have appropriate indemnity cover, but it may well mean that you do not need to purchase additional cover.

If your employer has made indemnity arrangements which provide appropriate cover against liabilities that may be incurred in your scope of practice, that should be sufficient. However, it is your responsibility to make sure that you are appropriately indemnified under your employer's cover. If you work for more than one employer, you need to make sure that you have appropriate indemnity arrangements in place for each area of your practice.

I'm self-employed. What do the requirements mean for me?

If you are self-employed you need to make sure that you have put in place your own arrangements for appropriate indemnity cover. You should make sure that you understand the terms of your policy and declare all the facts and information, including your full scope of practice, to your indemnity provider.

I work both as an employee and as a self-employed person. What do the requirements mean for me?

If you undertake a combination of employed and self-employed work, you need to make sure that you have appropriate indemnity cover in place for each area of your practice.

If someone is applying for registration, what do the requirements mean for them?

We recognise that an applicant for registration may not have yet have secured employment or have made a separate indemnity arrangement. You will still be able to apply for registration. The Veterinary Council will ask you to declare that they understand they cannot practise unless they have appropriate indemnity cover in place and that they will inform us within seven days if they cease to have such cover. If you don't complete the declarations, you won't be able to register with us.

I'm practising but I don't work with animals. What do the requirements mean for me?

The requirement to have appropriate indemnity arrangements in place applies to all registrants and all aspects of practice. If you are employed, your employer may well have made indemnity arrangements which will provide appropriate cover for the risks associated with the activities you carry out as part of your job. However, it is your responsibility to make sure that you are appropriately indemnified under your employer's cover. If you are self-employed and in non-clinical practice, you should contact your insurer for specialist advice on ensuring adequate and appropriate indemnity cover for your practice.

What if my practice changes?

If your practice changes, for example because you take on new responsibilities, or begin to specialise, or move into management, education or research, you may need to review the level of cover provided by your indemnity arrangements or make new arrangements.

I'm registered but not practising at the moment. Do I still need to have indemnity arrangements in force?

If you are registered but not practising, you must still inform us within seven days of your indemnity cover ceasing. If you are not practising at all for a period, for example because you are on a career break, maternity leave or between jobs, we would not require you to have indemnity cover during this period. You may want to consider whether you need to take out a run-off indemnity policy. This would provide cover for any claims made relating to the work you did before you stopped practising. Your insurer or defence organisation is best placed to advise you about this. Similarly, if you are working in a field unconnected with veterinary and are not undertaking any work that could be considered to fall within

the definition of 'practising' in sections 53 and 91 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005, as amended, we would not require you to have indemnity arrangements in place.

You may also want to consider whether you need to take out a run-off indemnity policy to provide cover for any claims made relating to the work you did before you stopped practising. Your insurer or defence organisation is best placed to advise you about this.

What about voluntary work?

The requirement to have appropriate indemnity arrangements in place applies to all registrants and all aspects of practice. If you practise your profession on a voluntary basis, the organisation you are working for may have made indemnity arrangements to provide appropriate cover for the risks associated with the activities you carry out for them, or you may already have personal indemnity arrangements that may cover your voluntary work.

What about treating my own animals?

If you wish to carry out the practice of veterinary medicine in relation to your own animals, you will have to apply to the Veterinary Council for a Certificate of Suitability or associate yourself with a premises that has a Certificate of Suitability. In such circumstances, you are also required to have a policy of indemnity insurance that provides appropriate cover for this work.

What about working overseas?

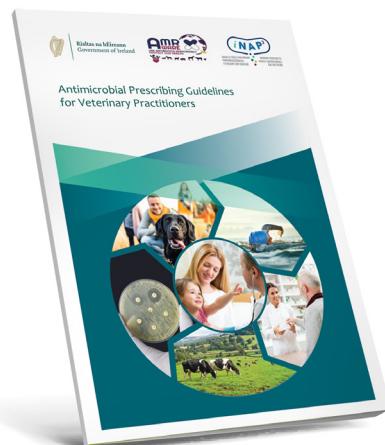
If you are practising veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing outside Ireland, you should ensure that you have appropriate indemnity cover in place for wherever you are practising and wherever a claim relating to your practice could be brought against you. If you return to Ireland, you will need to ensure you have appropriate indemnity arrangements in place before resuming practice here.

DAFM and UCD Antimicrobial Prescribing Guidelines for Veterinary Practitioners



The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and UCD School of Veterinary Medicine have jointly developed Antimicrobial Prescribing Guidelines for Veterinary Practitioners.

The guidelines aim to support veterinary practitioners in making evidence-based decisions on antibiotic use, promoting best practice in animal health and helping to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The initiative represents an important step in safeguarding the effectiveness of antibiotics for both animal and human health. The Animal Health Implementation Committee has formally endorsed the guidelines as part of Ireland's National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (iNAP). The guidelines can be found on the VCI's website by following this link: [Antimicrobial Prescribing Guidelines for Veterinary Practitioners](#)



2025 Fitness to Practise Conference Other Voices

The Veterinary Council jointly hosted Other Voices, a fitness to practise conference alongside our professional regulatory colleagues, the Dental Council, CORU, Medical Council, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland and the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. The conference took place on Wednesday 1 October 2025 in the RDS Dublin, with speakers across a range of topics relating to disciplinary processes in the regulated health professions and contemplated legislative amendments and reform. An engaging panel discussion offered insight to the decision-making processes in regulatory bodies.

The President of the High Court, The Hon. Mr Justice David Barniville kindly opened the conference and offered closing remarks.



Pictured (L-R): Frank Beatty SC; Simon Murphy; Dr Ailis Ni Riain, VCI; and Dr Gerry Cleary, President of the Dental Council.



Pictured: Ms Noeline Blackwell, Human Rights Lawyer.



Pictured: The Hon. Mr Justice David Barniville, President of the High Court of Ireland.



Pictured: Attendees of the 2025 Fitness to Practise Conference.



Pictured (L-R): Claire O'Leary, CEO, CORU; Niamh Muldoon, CEO and Registrar, Veterinary Council of Ireland; The Hon. Mr Justice David Barniville, President of the High Court; David O'Flynn, CEO and Registrar, Dental Council of Ireland; Joanne Kissane, CEO and Registrar, Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland; Carolyn Donohoe, CEO, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland.

Veterinary Council attends Future of Veterinary - One Health, One Environment Event



The Veterinary Council were pleased to attend the Sustainability event titled “Future of Veterinary – One Health, One Environment” event hosted by Veterinary Ireland. The event took place on Wednesday 22 October 2025 in the Tullamore Court Hotel.

Niamh Muldoon, Registrar and CEO of the Veterinary Council of Ireland and Caroline Garvan, Council member VCI facilitated on the sessions and panel discussion on the day. The focus of the event was One Health, Sustainability, Conservation and Environment, highlighting current and future challenges and opportunities for veterinary medicine in Ireland and on the international stage. Panellists included the Chief Medical Officer Prof Mary Horgan, Deputy CVO DR Eoin Ryan, Prof Paddy Wall, Niamh Ni Bhroinn, Dr Patrick Pollock and Niamh McGill.



Pictured (L-R): Dr Rachel Brown, President VCI; Dr Paul McDermott, VCI; Dr Jane Pigott, President of Veterinary Ireland.

Ethical Ethel



Dear Ethel,

My client has left the practice without settling their account and is now requesting copies of their animal's clinical records. I am willing to share these records with my client's new veterinary practice but I am concerned that my client may be attempting to sidestep his payment obligations by requesting the notes directly.

Kind regards,

Sean, Longford



Dear Sean,

It's a situation most veterinary practices face at some point: A client leaves the practice with an outstanding bill, only to request copies of their animal's clinical notes soon after. The natural question arises — do you have to provide the records if they haven't paid?

While it may feel unfair, the answer is guided clearly by the Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI) Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Practitioners. Let's break down what the Code says, what it doesn't say, and how practices can handle these requests professionally and confidently.

Clinical Notes Must Be Provided Promptly — Even if Fees Are Outstanding

Under the VCI Code of Professional Conduct, veterinary practitioners are entitled to charge for their services. However, this entitlement is separate from the duty to share clinical records. The Code states that clinical notes must be made available promptly upon request, whether directly to the client or to another veterinary practice taking over care.

This means that an unpaid bill cannot be used as a reason to withhold records. While this can be frustrating, especially when a client appears to be avoiding payment, practitioners remain bound by their professional obligations under the Code.

Understanding the CPPR

At the heart of the Code lies the concept of the Client–Patient–Practice Relationship (CPPR). A CPPR is an agreement between the animal owner (or designated keeper) and the veterinary practitioner to provide veterinary services that demonstrate real and ongoing clinical veterinary practitioner/animal contact.

When a client ends this relationship and begins with another practice, a new CPPR is established. In this case, the transfer of clinical records is required to ensure continuity of care and safeguard the animal's welfare.

If you receive a request for records from another practice, those records should be shared promptly and accurately.

Record-Keeping: A Professional Cornerstone

Good record-keeping is more than an administrative task. Veterinary practitioners are required to maintain an efficient system of recording, filing and retrieving patient records for each animal, herd, stud, flock or farm, appropriate to the facility, the equipment and the services provided, with due regard to confidentiality.

Records must indicate the person responsible for carrying out the procedure or service. Records should clearly demonstrate that the practitioner's involvement is real, ongoing, and clinically relevant. They should include:

- ▶ Dated examination findings
- ▶ Diagnostic test results
- ▶ Details of treatments, anaesthetics, and surgeries
- ▶ Notes on communications with clients

Records should be detailed enough for another vet to take over the case seamlessly if needed. They must also be kept for a minimum of seven years and made readily available upon request.

Fees and Fair Practice

Veterinary practitioners are fully entitled to charge fees that are fair and appropriate to the service provided. Being transparent about costs, providing clear estimates, and communicating payment policies early can help avoid misunderstandings later.

If a client departs without paying, handle the financial follow-up professionally, separate from clinical duties, and avoid allowing frustration to influence communication or decision-making. If a client refuses to pay, the appropriate course of action is to follow normal business procedures, such as sending reminders, offering payment plans, or, if necessary, pursuing the matter through small claims or legal channels, rather than withholding records.

It's important to remember that the VCI does not regulate or enforce payment of fees.

The Council has no authority over how much practices charge or how they collect outstanding debts. These matters are private business issues between the veterinary practice and the client.

In Summary

While it can feel unjust to provide clinical records to a client who hasn't settled their bill, the professional duty to ensure the animal's welfare comes first. The VCI Code makes it clear: record provision and fee payment are separate obligations.

By maintaining professionalism, documenting communications carefully, and pursuing unpaid accounts through appropriate business channels, veterinary practitioners can protect both their ethical standing and the financial health of their practice.

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.

Veterinary Council attends VetIreland25 Conference

Kevin McConnell, Deputy President of the Veterinary Council of Ireland, was invited to take part in a panel discussion at the VetIreland25 Conference on Saturday 4th October 2025. The conference was on from 3rd – 5th October 2025 in the Gleneagle Hotel and INEC Arena, Killarney. The VCI had an exhibition stand at the conference and members of the executive team were pleased to talk to delegates about the role of the Veterinary Council as the regulator of the veterinary professions in Ireland.



Pictured (L-R): Professor Rory Breathnach, Dean and Head of School of Veterinary Medicine, UCD. Kevin McConnell, Deputy President, Veterinary Council of Ireland; Dr June Fanning, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Dr Jane Pigott, President Veterinary Ireland.



Pictured (L-R): Patrick Donohoe, CEO, Animal Health Ireland; Dr June Fanning, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Niamh Muldoon, Registrar and CEO VCI, Conor Geraghty, MVB.



Pictured (L-R): Niamh Muldoon, Registrar and CEO VCI, Dr Jane Pigott, President Veterinary Ireland.



Pictured (L-R): Dr Alan Rossiter, VCI; Carla Sharkey, VCI executive; Aideen Neylon, VCI executive; Niamh Muldoon, Registrar and CEO VCI; Peter Bishton, Deputy Chief Executive, Veterinary Ireland.



Pictured (L-R): Dr Paul McDermott, VCI, Dr Caroline Garvan, VCI.

2024 CVE Compliance Audit

The Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI) has completed the audit of Continuing Veterinary Education (CVE) compliance for the 2024 CVE year. In accordance with the Council's CVE Regulations 2020 (Statutory Instrument Numbers 577 and 578 of 2020), 5% of registered veterinary practitioners and veterinary nurses were randomly selected for review.

The audit results demonstrate strong engagement across both professions, with a compliance rate of approximately 90% among veterinary practitioners and 93% among veterinary nurses. Combined, this represents an overall compliance rate of 90.7% across all audited participants.



The Council acknowledges the continued commitment of veterinary practitioners and nurses to maintaining professional standards through active participation in Continuing Veterinary Education.

90% among veterinary practitioners and 93% among veterinary nurses. Combined, this represents an overall compliance rate of 90.7% across all audited participants.



Dundalk Institute of Technology Careers Fair 2025

The Veterinary Council was delighted to exhibit at this year's Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT) Careers Fair, which took place on Tuesday, 7 October 2025.

The event provided a valuable opportunity to engage with veterinary nursing students from all years of the programme. For final-year students in particular, it offered insight into the role of the Council, the registration process, and the importance of continuous veterinary education throughout their careers.

A sincere thank you to the staff of DKIT for their warm welcome and support throughout the event.



VCI stand at the Dundalk Institute of Technology Careers Fair 2025

Cork College of Further Education and Training Graduation 2025

The Veterinary Council attended the Cork College of Further Education and Training (CCFET) graduation ceremony for the Veterinary Nursing Class of 2025, held in the historic City Hall, Cork, on 21 October.

Council member Joe Moffitt addressed the graduates on behalf of the VCI, welcoming them onto the Register of Veterinary Nurses.

The Council congratulates all graduates on their achievement, with special recognition to Emma Coffey, recipient of the Veterinary Nursing Award for 2025.



Council member Joe Moffitt addressing the Cork College of Further Education and Training Veterinary Nursing Class of 2025.



Pictured (L-R): Emma Coffey, Cork College of Further Education and Training Veterinary Nursing Award winner 2025; Joe Moffitt, VCI.



Pictured: Paula Mc Carthy, Principal, Cork College of Further Education and Training; Joe Moffitt, VCI; Carla Sharkey, VCI executive; Cork College of Further Education and Training Veterinary Nursing Class of 2025.

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.

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.



Safe medicines, healthy animals.
Report adverse events!

#VetMedSafetyDay



EMA
EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY



FVE
Federation of Veterinarians of Europe



HPRA
An Údarás Rialála Tárgi Sláinte
Health Products Regulatory Authority

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/>

Cavan, Louth, Meath & Monaghan

- ▶ Wednesday, 5 November 2025, 9:30am – 1pm, The Peace Link, Liseaggerton, Clones, Clones, Co Monaghan, H23 W209. [Book here](#).
- ▶ Tuesday, 18 November 2025, 10am – 1:30pm, Barbican Centre, William Street, Downtown Drogheda, Drogheda, Co. Louth. [Book here](#).

Cork

- ▶ Monday, 10 November 2025, 6pm – 9:30pm, Linkpoint Youth Services, Harbour View Road, Gurranabraher, Cork, Munster, T23 YPT. [Book here](#).
- ▶ Wednesday, 19 November 2025, 10am – 1pm, 49 North Street, 49 North Street, Gortnaclohy, Skibbereen, Co. Cork, P81 Y433. [Book here](#).

Donegal, Sligo & Leitrim

- ▶ Wednesday, 12 November 2025, 6pm – 9:30pm, Moville & District Family Resource Centre Limited, Market Square, Moville, Co. Donegal, F93 X59E. [Book here](#).

Dublin North City & County

- ▶ Friday, 21 November 2025, 9:30am – 1pm, The Oasis Centre, 2 St Laurence Pl East, North Dock, Dublin 1, D01 E5Y9. [Book here](#).
- ▶ Monday, 24 November 2025, 9:30am – 1pm, Tayleur House Reception, St Itas Campus, Portraine Demesne, Portrane, Co. Dublin. [Book here](#).

Dublin Southeast, Dublin South & East Wicklow

- ▶ Tuesday, 18 November 2025, 10am – 1:30pm, Royal Marine Hotel, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Dublin, A96 K063. [Book here](#).

Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow

- ▶ Thursday, 13 November 2025, 1:30pm – 5pm, Rathangan Community Library, Canal Court Kildare Road, Rathangan Demesne, Rathangan, Co. Kildare, R51 YX65. [Book here](#).
- ▶ Friday, 21 November 2025, 10:30am – 2pm, Ballyfermot Library, Ballyfermot Rd, Dublin 10, D10WV02. [Book here](#).

Galway, Mayo & Roscommon

- ▶ Tuesday, 4 November 2025, 10am – 1:30pm, Clayton Hotel Galway, Monivea Road, Ballybrit, Galway, H91 D526. [Book here](#).
- ▶ Monday, 10 November 2025, 10am – 1:30pm, The Ellison, Lannagh Road, Garryduff, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, F23 V279. [Book here](#).
- ▶ Monday, 10 November 2025, 6:30pm – 10pm, Caherlistrane GAA & LGFA, Co. Galway, H91 HF78. [Book here](#).

Limerick, Clare & North Tipperary

- ▶ Tuesday, 4 November 2025, 10am – 2pm, Roselawn House, Castletroy, Plassey, Co. Limerick. [Book here](#).
- ▶ Saturday, 15 November 2025, 10am – 2pm, Rosecrea Lions Club Community Hall, Rosemary Street, Rosecrea, Co. Tipperary, E53 DD35. [Book here](#).

Longford, Westmeath, Laois & Offaly

- ▶ Tuesday, 9 December 2025, 9am – 12:15pm, Merchant Quay Ireland Centre, Tanyard Industrial Estate, Tullamore, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, R35 V5W4. [Book here](#).

Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny, Carlow & South Tipperary

- ▶ Wednesday, 5 November 2025, 9:30am – 1pm, Carrick on Suir Community Resource Centre, Community Resource Centre, Nano Nagle Community Resource Centre, Greenside, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary, E32 P928. [Book here](#).

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

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



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



**IVBF
Financial
Support**



**Helpline
(by VetLife)**

IRISH VETERINARY
BENEVOLENT FUND

Contact us

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

✉ info@vci.ie
👉 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](#)