

Stage 1 (Assessment and investigation)

Concerns will be investigated by a Case Examiner Group, comprising a Case Manager, an RVN Case Examiner and a non-veterinary Case Examiner.

Is the concern sufficiently serious to be passed on to the RVN Preliminary Investigation Committee?

Yes

No

We will write to tell you the reasons for this. The case may be closed with no further action, or closed with formal advice issued to the RVN.

Stage 2 (RVN Preliminary Investigation Committee)

The RVN Preliminary Investigation Committee (RVNPIC) will consider all the available information, and may request more details, before deciding whether to refer the case to stage three – a public RVN Disciplinary Committee hearing.

Is there a realistic prospect that the RVN's conduct could affect his/her fitness to practise?

Yes

No

We will write to tell you the reasons for this. The RVNPIC can close the case with no further action; close the case and issue formal advice to the RVN; or, hold the case open for up to two years.

Stage 3 (RVN Disciplinary Committee)

An RVN Disciplinary Committee (RVNDC) hearing is ordinarily held in public, similar to a court, to decide whether the RVN is guilty of serious professional misconduct and must face formal action. Relevant witnesses may be required to attend to give evidence.

Is the RVN guilty of serious professional misconduct?

Yes

No

The RVN may be struck off the register; suspended for up to two years; or, given a formal reprimand. The case can also be held open for up to two years.

We will write to tell you the RVNDC's reasons for its decision.