

Open Letter

Dr Niall Connell BVMS CertSAO MRCVS
President
RCVS

May 3rd, 2020

Ref. Standard of Proof for RCVS disciplinary processes

Dear Niall,

I hope you, your family and your team at the RCVS are all well.

This weekend, on Saturday 2nd May, we had planned to host our open forum, giving the profession an opportunity to discuss and debate the RCVS proposal to lower the standard of proof required for RCVS disciplinary processes from “beyond reasonable doubt” to “on the balance of probabilities”.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, this meeting of course had to be postponed, and understandably the subject isn't receiving the same level of attention at present as veterinary practices and professionals are working hard to adapt to the current working conditions.

The British Veterinary Union in Unite (BVU) wishes to remain engaged with the subject, and we still plan to host an open forum in the future – in person or via an online platform. Once scheduled, we will of course re-extend our invitation and we hope you and your colleagues will still be willing and able to attend.

We hope you will continue to keep the profession updated with any progression of this issue, and the outcome of any discussions on it at upcoming RCVS Council meetings. Moreover, we would welcome involvement in any consultation process, should the proposal reach to that stage of consideration.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend our cordial congratulations to the newly elected members of the RCVS and VN Councils. We are pleased that two of the three candidates that we endorsed for the RCVS Council were elected, and look forward to continuing to work productively with all members of RCVS Council.

Best wishes,

Suzanna

**Dr S Hudson-Cooke BVetMed MRCVS
Branch Chair, British Veterinary Union in UNITE**