



30th March 2019

Dear Registrar,

We are contacting the Council again regarding classified adverts which the IVNA and our members have issue with. We are concerned about potential breach of the VPA in relation to unqualified personnel in practices performing acts of Veterinary Nursing.

The attached adverts raise concern for the following reasons:

QVN advert refers to a qualified veterinary nurse rather than a registered veterinary nurse, we would like to remind you that as a regulated profession acts of veterinary nursing can only be carried out by a registered veterinary nurse. We take the matter of registration, our legal requirements and associated responsibilities very seriously, as should the Veterinary Profession at large. There is great difference between being qualified and registered in terms of employment as a Veterinary Nurse and to omit this in an advert implies that an unregistered person may be considered for this role as a veterinary nurse in practice. Title of veterinary assistant is ambiguous in nature and by citing "interesting caseload" may also infer to applicants their participation in clinical work with the practice patients. We fail to see the relevance in this statement, should the role purely encompass reception and grooming duties.

VN/Assistant is a blatant breach of the VPA and the use of our protected title "Veterinary Nurse" Combining Title of Veterinary Nurse and Student - there is a great difference between Qualified Veterinary Nurses and Student Veterinary Nurses both in experience and in legal terms as per the Veterinary Practice Act.

As a profession we must safeguard the interests of our students and they must be supported and supervised in a practical setting while working with animals. We are very concerned for the welfare of any student and the patients whom they may attend to should they be expected to work in a setting where they are afforded the same level of responsibility as a qualified veterinary nurse.

We ask that the Council contact the practices advertising these roles, reminding them of their obligations as registered persons and the consequences of actions which contravene the VPA.

As an organisation we are repeatedly receiving correspondence and complaints from members notifying us of non-registered and unqualified staff overstepping the line in terms of performing veterinary nursing duties, but we are unable to convince registrants to come forward to the VCI with official complaints as they fear repercussions from employers and the industry alike.

We would ask the Council again for a response to our question as to how PAS registered practices are being audited to prevent such conduct and if unannounced inspections are taking place in order to ascertain the involvement of unqualified personnel performing acts of veterinary medicine. We would also request information on how inspectors are selected for such inspections and what measures are in place to prevent conflicts of interest in the selection criteria.

Kind regards

IVNA Committee

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