

## Response to working papers published by the CMA on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025 in relation to its Market Investigation into veterinary services for household pets

- The Veterinary Schools Council (VSC) represents the United Kingdom's veterinary schools. Our Council is an authoritative voice on matters relating to veterinary education – from the selection, teaching and training of those who will be the future of clinical practice, to the clinical academics and researchers who are critically important to the health of both the animal and human populations in the United Kingdom.
- 2. We welcome the initial observations set out in the working papers and appreciate the efforts made by the CMA to develop its understanding of the sector through engagement with a range of stakeholders, including veterinary educators, academics, students and recent graduates.
- 3. We particularly welcome the recognition of the need for an updated regulatory framework. In common with many other organisations in the sector, VSC and its individual members have long been calling for new veterinary legislation. We keenly await further commentary and findings in the next series of working papers due to be published in the spring, including those on possible remedies.
- 4. We intend to submit a more comprehensive response following the publication of the CMA's provisional decision report later in the year. We are keen to engage with the CMA and other government agencies and departments to ensure that veterinary schools are able to respond to any relevant recommendations and assure both the quality and quantity of graduates required by the profession.
- 5. While VSC is the collective voice of veterinary schools and veterinary education in the United Kingdom, there is significant diversity in the educational offerings and clinical operations of our member institutions. As such, some institutions may determine that an individual response is required in addition to the VSC response.