

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE: EXTERNAL EXAMINER REPORT 2013-2014 - BDS (Hons) (Final BDS)

Dear Professor Jagger,

I am writing further to your External Examiner's report for the above programme(s). Your Report has been considered by the School of Dentistry in accordance with our approved procedures. I am, therefore, now in a position to respond on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor to the main points you had raised.

Issues Highlighted

Your Report raised issue(s) which have been referred for consideration by the School. The following response has been provided on behalf of the School.

"1. [3, 6th para] detailed observations and suggestions regarding marking arrangements for "the case presentations"

The School thanks Professor Jagger for the detailed comments provided. The additional 10% marks available have been removed for the next academic year. The School accepts that as part of the process common questions would be useful as a starting point. However, it is felt that questions cannot be totally structured as it is dependent upon the student in the viva. It is agreed that there could be further guidance and this will be reviewed.

2. [3, 7th para] in the context of noted improvements, further detailed comments and suggested enhancements to arrangements for assessing "the unseen case"

As Professor Jagger indicates the unseen case is a recent modification to the examination in order to ensure greater consistency than was possible with a live patient case. The School is continuing to explore ways to improve and welcomes comments made. The School agrees that the mark awarded for "regurgitating" the case history is not appropriate and will revise."

Positive Comments

The School and University are pleased to note your positive comments on the School's provision including:

- a. **[1, 2 and 3] your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;**
- b. **[3] your commendation of the "administrative support and organisation" and of the "examiner briefing presentation";**
- c. **[4] your indication that the "examination has evolved and improved over the last three years";**
- d. **[6] your further indications that the "school is proactive in an attempt to produce a robust examination which adequately prepares the students as a safe beginner" and that the School has responded positively to feedback from its External Examiners.**

I hope that you will find this response satisfactory and thank you for your service as External Examiner.

In order to meet the expectations of the QAA Quality Code, both the External Examiner Annual Report and this Institutional Response will be published on Registry web pages and will be available publically.

The University's provision of the formal Institutional Response is not intended to constrain direct communication between schools and their External Examiners. Schools are encouraged to discuss with their External Examiners any matters of detail raised in their Reports and, more widely, any issues impacting on the quality and standards of awards, including possible changes to programmes.

We are most grateful for your comments and for your support in this matter.

Dr S L Williamson

for Dr C B Turner
Academic Registrar