

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

Dear Professor McConnell,

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] the External Examiner's observation that "Some of the unseen cases were very complex" and indication that the school should strive to have all students examining "a similar case"**

The School agrees with Dr McConnell that further standardisation is required and is actively reviewing the unseen cases.

- 2. [4] the perception that "students would benefit from closer guidance on the selection of their seen cases"**

The School has reviewed and made changes year on year and guidance being given in relation to selection, quality and reflection is being given.

- 3. [4 and 7] the External Examiner's comments regarding the changing role of External Examiners being encouraged by the GDC and the need for the School "to address the function of future External Examiners at this examination"**

The School is reviewing the role of the External Examiner in light of QA processes. It is acknowledged that External Examiners currently are engaged in the examining process and not just the QA process, and the School is looking further at this in relation to the GDC and University processes. External Examiners have suggested that they are able to and still wish to contribute in both roles and the School will continue to review this."

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. **[4] your appreciation of developments to the examination process and responsiveness of staff to issues raised by 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