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Sent by email to Professor StJohn Crean

25 February 2019

Dear Professor Crean,

Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Annual Report 2017/18

I am writing further to the receipt of your report for the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS).

Your report has been considered by the School and is the basis of this Institutional Response on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor. The School will also use its contents to help inform their [Annual Review and Enhancement](#) process and where appropriate, [Periodic Review](#).

Issues highlighted in your report:

1. The variation in the standard of question setting involving style and award of marks remains an area for improvement.
2. Consider reducing the burden of the assessment event, as some repetitive assessments do occur, such as the three knowledge based papers which the external examiners feel could benefit from a reduction in volume.

Response provided by the School:

Thank you for your report and all your support during the tenure of your external examinership within our School for FBDS.

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1. In relation to your constructive feedback above, the School recognises the need to review the question style and format of the FBDS written assessments and allied to that, the burden of assessment associated with three MSA papers.
2. The Director of Assessment will be chairing a meeting in the near future (March 2019) to confirm the future format of this written assessment, for cohort 2020/2021. It is proposed that this assessment will change to that of SBA format questions or part SBA/MSA papers. This change will increase the reliability and validity of this assessment. The School will of course liaise with our external examiners when this outcome has been confirmed

The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:

1. Your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process.
2. Development of a strong and effective outreach programme.
3. Improvement in consistency of the assessment event, providing examiners the opportunity to make fair comparisons.
4. Reassuring improvements in the assessment process, which are ongoing.
5. The community based experiences the students undergo, reflecting the “real world” expectations of the modern dentist.
6. The methods adopted to train the large number of examiners especially those employed within the service delivery sector rather than the University system.

As this is your final year as External Examiner, we would like to thank you for your service and we are most grateful for your valuable input into this process.

We hope that you will find this response satisfactory and thank you for your continued support of the programme.

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 the University’s [Public Information website](#) and will be available to all students and staff.

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

Yours sincerely,



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