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**Sent by email to [katherine.berry@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:katherine.berry@manchester.ac.uk) 16 December 2016**

Dear Dr Berry,

**Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Annual Report 2015–2016**

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's Report for the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (DClinPsy).

Your Report has been considered by the School 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**

1. Suggested changes to the detailed nature of the thesis.
2. Observations on the assessment of the quality of trainees' clinical work/therapy skills and scope for the programme to directly assess clinical skills, for example, using videoed extracts from sessions.

**The following response has been provided on behalf of the School:**

1. The changes have been agreed and will be fully implemented in the submissions for 2018.
2. Your comments about the direct assessment of clinical skills echoes one of the BPS's recommendations. It will be considered further by the School's Programme Advisory Executive Committee once the new Clinical Director is in post.

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**The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:**

1. your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;
2. the nature and level of feedback provided on trainee assignments, emphasising both strengths and areas for improvement.

I hope that you will find this response satisfactory and we 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 website and will be available to all students and staff.

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.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Simon Wright  
Academic Registrar