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Sent by email to J.K.Smeeton@Salford.ac.uk

13 January 2018

Dear Mr Smeeton,

Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Annual Report 2016–2017

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's Report for the Professional Doctorate in Social Work (DSW).

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. Dates of exam boards and earlier receipt of scripts in order to provide constructive feedback prior to the board.

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

1. It is acknowledged that a six-week period of notice for an Examining Board is not extensive and in previous years we have issued Examining Board with considerably more notice. A change in school arrangements aimed at coordinating a whole school Year Calendar, however, caused the delay in confirming the day and we apologise for this.

As a programme we always ensure that External Examiners receive scrips for review no less than four weeks in advance of an Examining Board (unless any

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alternative arrangements has been agreed with an Examiner). On this occasion, we are pleased we were able to send the scripts six weeks prior to the Board.

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 assessments continue to stretch the students to achieve high standards and the practice of providing detailed formative feedback to draft work is obviously enabling students to improve their insight into the topic and to improve their academic skills.
3. Highly respected social work academics who are publishing high quality work that is well-regarded nationally and internationally.
4. The quality of material I have been provided is excellent and I feel completely informed and fully able to perform my role.

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