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**Sent by email to [screan@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:screan@uclan.ac.uk)**

**09 September 2016**

Dear Professor Crean,

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

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's Report for the BDS (Final).

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. Your suggestion that academic standards would be supported by the addition of a psychometrician into the team to provide greater depth of analysis and feedback to the performance of the various aspects of the assessment.
2. Your observations that the main areas of challenge are to ensure that each student is getting the same level of examination reflective of the broader curriculum rather than in areas of specialist interest only and that this is a challenge across dental education in general but is reflective of the need for intensive and repeated examiner training, which is the focus of the Cardiff team.

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

1. The School is pleased to report that a psychometrician has been appointed and will join the team on 1st October 2016.
2. The School thanks you for these comments on the improvements made to date and the recognition of the School's continued commitment to the standardisation of the process and the training of examiners. The School recognises the challenge identified and will focus on the developments required.

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

1. Your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process
2. your particular commendation of the level of cooperation evident between the academic and administrative support at School level, of the responsiveness of the Programme Team to constructive external feedback and of the blended approach to learning.

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