



Academic & Student Support Services
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Sent by email to james.puryer@bristol.ac.uk

20 July 2016

Dear Dr Puryer,

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 (Primary, Part 2C).

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.

Issue Highlighted:

Your strong concern about the lack of standard setting procedures applied to the assessment.

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

The School thanks you for your constructive comments regarding its assessments. The School is moving forward with full standard setting, and with the confirmation of the appointment of a new psychometrician role for 1st October 2016, is progressing this. Next year the School will be implementing full standard setting within its revised BDS programme. In addition the changes to the Programme Regulations for the revised BDS include the introduction of a 50% pass mark (standard set).

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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. your particular commendation of the quality and structure of questions set within assessments producing a wide range of marks, of independent double marking and of very detailed model answers and marking schemes;
3. your confirmation that the assessment fairly tests 'application of knowledge' rather than simply 'recall'.

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