

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE: EXTERNAL EXAMINER REPORT 2013-2014 - BDS (Intermediate BDS Human Diseases)

Dear Dr Hegarty,

I am writing further to your External Examiner's report for the above programme(s). Your Report has been considered by the Cardiff School of Dentistry 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

Your Report raised issue(s) which have been referred for consideration by the School. The following response has been provided on behalf of the School.

"1. [3] the External Examiner's detailed "feedback on some of the Human Diseases questions"

The School is grateful for the detailed feedback and will ensure that these are fed back to the examination co-ordinator and discussed at the Assessment and Feedback Committee to act upon.

2. [3 and 6] the External Examiner's encouragement for "standard setting" of the Human Diseases paper

The School is working to roll out standard setting across all examinations and currently a psychometrician analyses papers following the examination to improve this process. The encouragement to focus on standard setting of the Human Diseases paper is welcomed.

3. [6] the suggestion that "Informal viva practice for students may be beneficial ahead of this examination"

The Students currently undertake a Viva in year 1 and as part of the professionalism element of the BDS course are tutored on viva technique.

4. [6, final para] the indication that "Internal examiners should be advised to submit marked papers promptly" to allow them to be made available "in their entirety when the external examiners arrive"

This issue has been discussed at senior academic committees and measures put in place to ensure that this will happen."

Positive Comments

The School and University are pleased to note your positive comments on the School's provision including:

- a. [1, 2 and 3] your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process
- b. [4] your commendation of the "marking scheme for the case report viva";
- c. [5] your commendation of support provided by "the administrative staff".

I hope that you will find this response satisfactory and thank you for your service as External Examiner.

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 Registry web pages and will be available publically.

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.

Dr S L Williamson

for Dr C B Turner
Academic Registrar