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Sent by email to anne.hegarty@sth.nhs.uk

28 July 2017

Dear Dr Hegarty,

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

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

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. Preparation of new Internal Examiners.
2. Standard setting of examination questions in the Human Diseases section and review of identified lowest scoring questions.
3. Students should be encouraged to present the main points of their cases at the viva rather than verbalising directly what is included in the report.

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

1. The Internal Examiners are expected to observe the academic year before where they are allowed to examine summatively and to watch prepared video

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clips for calibration. The School will ensure that all Internal Examiners have completed this prior to the examinations for next academic year.

2. Full standard setting will be applied to the Human Disease Examination next academic year. The teaching of the topics identified will also be reviewed with the psychometric evaluation.
3. The students are prepared for these vivas by the use of bespoke video clips and are strongly advised not to read their reports verbatim, but to deliver a succinct summary. Students will be reminded of this for their next viva presentations.

The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:

1. marking scheme for the case report viva;
2. the support you received from the School's administrative staff.

I hope that you will find this response satisfactory and we thank you for your continued support of the programme.

As this is your final year as External Examiner, we would like to thank you for your service and we are most grateful for your valuable input into this process.

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