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Sent by email to Dr Andrew Dilley

19 September 2018

Dear Dr Dilley,

Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Annual Report 2017/18

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's report for the BDS(Hons) in Dentistry (Primary BDS Part 1 - Anatomy).

Your report has been considered by the School and is the basis of this Institutional Response on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor. The School will also use its contents to help inform their [Annual Review and Enhancement](#) process and where appropriate, [Periodic Review](#).

Issues highlighted in your report:

1. There is some concern regarding the embryology exam questions – as in previous papers, there was not much guidance for the students, and from the answer paper, it was unclear how marks were awarded.

Response provided by the School:

1. We endeavour to analyse the results from each academic year to so if there are any clear patterns with respect to performance in topic areas. It is clear as highlighted by Dr Dilley that there is an overall poor performance with respect to Embryology. Whilst this is not across the board as some students do score well in this area there does seem to be an issue. We will review the

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teaching of the topic and ensure there is more guidance within the questions and assure clarity in how marks are awarded.

The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:

1. your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;
2. For written exams, the range of question types is noteworthy
3. The recent implementation of standard setting for exam papers is excellent.
4. The poster assignments are impressive, whereby students work in groups as well as individually to produce posters. Also of note is the excellent peer assessment of the posters and the reflective statement, which allows an insight in to how the students went about researching their poster topics

We hope that you will find this response satisfactory and 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's [Public Information website](#) and will be available to all students and staff.

We are most grateful for your comments and for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Simon Wright
Academic Registrar