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Sent by email to Professor Nicola Innes

19 September 2018

Dear Professor Innes,

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

I am writing further to the receipt of your report for BDS (Final).

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:

- The Assessment Process:** For students who quickly covered the basics of the cases and showed good basic knowledge in the assessments, the cases chosen had some complex needs that allowed potential for examiners to explore areas further. In one or two of the cases, it was not always clear which pieces of information were on both the examiners' and the students' documentation, or only on the examiners' and this was fed back to the examining team.

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Response provided by the School:

1. The School will ensure that for the next cohort undertaking these examinations, the examiners will have more explicit detail in regard to the students' information given. This will be further emphasised within staff pre-examination briefings.

The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:

1. your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;
2. There was a good spread of cases, of a reasonably similar standard, and with a good scope for basic knowledge and understanding to be demonstrated by the candidates.
3. The final year students undergo a rigorous examination process and are tested on all areas that they will practice in.
4. external examiner inclusion in the briefing to observe what happens. This happened this year and was very helpful. Similarly, there has been strengthening of the standardisation and suggestions made have been acted on.
5. The team are to be congratulated on the standard setting and calibration carried out.
6. The way in which the support staff look after the students is exceptional (signing them in, showing them in and out of rooms for the vivas etc). It is clear that there is a strong rapport between the dental nurses/ admin staff and the students that has obviously developed over time. This supportive environment for the students during their clinical exams, a notoriously stressful time is commendable.

We hope that you will find this response satisfactory and 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'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
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