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**Sent by email to [kathryn.derringer@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:kathryn.derringer@kcl.ac.uk)**

**20 July 2016**

Dear Dr Derringer,

**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 (Intermediate).

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. Your indication of the need to make sure that each student's two patient presentation cases have been signed off by their tutor as having been their patients.
2. Your suggestion that the dental charting used by the students should be standardised (all should be using the same symbols).
3. Your detailed suggestions and observations on the changing the role of external examiners overseeing due process of the examination vivas.
4. Your indication that it would be helpful if the case reports with the internal examiners' marking were made available in advance of the vivas and sent to the external examiners.
5. Your anticipation of a more formal standard setting process.

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

1. The School agrees with your comment and will ensure that this is in place.
2. Students will be advised of the symbols to be used in dental charting and to ensure these are standardised.
3. As discussed with External Examiners this summer, the changes will be implemented for next academic year.
4. The School thanks you for this suggestion and will explore the possibilities of providing an external link to Grademark for use by External Examiners which will enable them to view the internal examiners' marks.
5. The School is moving forward with formal standard setting, and with the confirmation of the appointment of our psychometrician role for 1st October 2016, confirms that this is being progressed. Next year the School will be implementing full standard setting within our 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).

**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 on enhancements to the preparation of students for viva assessments and of the support you received from academic and supporting 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,



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