

## **INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE: EXTERNAL EXAMINER REPORT 2012-2013 - MSc in Advanced Practice, incorporating the PG Certificate in Non-Medical Prescribing (all areas)**

Dear Mrs Davis,

I am writing further to your External Examiner's report for the above programme(s). Your Report has been considered by the School of Nursing and Midwifery Studies 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 one issue which has been referred for consideration by the School.

- 1. [3, final para] your request for guidance on "penalties if any for breach of confidentiality" in assessments and related comments.**

The following response has been provided by Anna Jones and Sandra Arthur, the Programme Managers, on behalf of the School.

*"The School has produced a Maintaining Confidentiality and Anonymity in Academic Work policy to ensure that all students and staff protect the confidentiality and anonymity of the public when constructing coursework and as part of their assessments within the programmes offered at the SoNMS. The policy covers examples of breaches of confidentiality, written practice and guidelines for students, consequences of breach of confidentiality and a student declaration form. A copy of the policy, in its current format, is attached and will shortly be widely distributed throughout the School in preparation for the coming academic year.*

*Please would you contact us should you have any further concerns or queries.*

### 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. **[6] your commendation of the programme team "on their innovative addition of the case study involving a reflective piece following patient feedback within the prescribing programme".**

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.

Mrs Jill Bedford  
Director of Registry and Academic Services