

## ANNUAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT 18/19

### Appendix 3: External Examiners' report

#### Pg Dip Veterinary Clinical Practice

This appendix contains Course Director's/Year Leader's responses to 2018/19 External Examiners' comments and updates to actions from previous years' External Examiners' report (if applicable).

As Course Director/Year Leader please ensure you reflect on External Examiners' comments in the Course Review section. Please ensure that any actions to be taken in response to these comments have been recorded in your Annual Quality Improvement Report.

For support or advice please contact Ana Filipovic, Academic Quality Officer 'Standards', [afilipovic@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:afilipovic@rvc.ac.uk), 01707666938

Appendix 3 consists of:

a.	Updates to actions from previous years' reports (not applicable as there were no actions from last year)
b.	2018/19 Collaborative Annual Report with responses from Course Director

# Individual Report

Exam board meeting: 20-Jun-2019

Pg Dip in Veterinary Clinical Practice , 2018/19

Dr Liz Mossop

## The Programme

Please comment, as appropriate, on the following aspects of the programme:

### 1.1 Course content

The programme is an appropriate mechanism for interns to achieve a qualification.

Response from college requested: **NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

Course Director Response:

No comment

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

### 1.2 Learning objectives, and the extent to which they were met

n/a

Response from college requested: **NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

Course Director Response:

N/A

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

### 1.3 Teaching methods

All relevant and workplace based

Response from college requested: **NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

Certainly our aim of the course.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

### 1.4 Resources (in so far as they affected the assessment)

All resources are available to students and teachers

Response from college requested: **NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

No comment

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

## Student performance

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

### 2.1 Students' performance in relation to those at a similar stage on comparable courses in other institutions, where this is known to you

The students perform well and the addition of the formative opportunity works well to prime them for the level of writing expected for the case reports. Case reports contain a good level of detail and cover a range of clinical presentations. WPBA is carried out across a range of skills and learning opportunities and all have been passed this year.

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

Good to see that formative assessment for the case report is being well received. It takes certain amount of demands from the markers though is good to see the benefits. It is good that WPBA are varied enough to capture many aspects of clinical activities.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

### 2.2 Quality of candidates' knowledge and skills, with particular reference to those at the top, middle or bottom of the range

Where two cases were failed it was clear why and resubmissions were appropriate. As usual most candidates are scoring around the 60% mark with little use of the upper ends of the mark scheme. Assessors should be encouraged to use the full range of marks but I appreciate this is challenging. Top graded submissions were excellent

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

This has been passed on to examiners, and this has been brought up for examinations and assessment in other courses. We hope to see a greater range of grades in the future.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

### 3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

There is a good range of methods with appropriate levels of WPBA which are now bedding in well. The case studies are a helpful way for students to record their activities and reflections, and prepare them well for residency.

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you for the comments.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

### 3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

No students failed WPBA this year (unless these forms were not submitted). This is not a surprising situation to be in as these assessments seem relatively high stakes to candidates and assessors no matter how they are explained. We did discuss briefly at the board whether a move to formative must complete assessments in the workplace could result more realistic reflections of performance. However I can appreciate the view that summative assessment of student performance is important in a professional course such as this. It is just something to consider as things evolve over time as the culture is currently that all students pass the WPBA which will be difficult to overcome unless you change a mechanism. Of course it is possible that all students demonstrate these competencies and we are worrying unnecessarily. This is a typical challenge with WPBA and just something to reflect on going forwards.

It was good to have the analysis of examiners this year and showed a good spread - thank you for this.

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

As it was difficult to replicate the exact same scenario it is possible that candidates have failed a WPBA though this has not been submitted, as they are only required to submit two for each module. We should encourage those submissions that have failed or used in a formative sense to be submitted so that we can understand if there are any particular areas that consistently require further attention and to provide to the internal and external examiners this information.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

### 3.3 Consistency of the level of assessment with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)

ok

Response from college requested: **NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

Course Director Response:

Good

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

### 3.4 Standard of marking

As usual there is a range of feedback given and I know the team make efforts to ensure assessors appreciate the necessity of constructive and specific comments. This has definitely improved since last year but keep pushing! I don't think "thank you for your help" is appropriate as the only comment on an MSF form and potentially some tweaking of the boxes could ensure this was developmental feed forwards rather than bland comments like this. I do think there is still a challenge within the assessors team about what you mean by reflection in the case reports. I know the team have tried hard to embed this in the mark scheme but potentially this is an area to concentrate on during your assessor briefing this year? From the feedback comments there is clearly still some confusion.

Response from college requested: **NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

Course Director Response:

Thank you for the comments. We have created an audio recording on examining for examiners, in particular on reflection and also how to give feedback in the case reports. We will continue to address this in assessor briefings, inset day, other forums. Free text comments in MSF forms should allow a range of responses, we will continue to speak to examiners about improving this.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

**3.5 In your view, are the procedures for assessment and the determination of awards sound and fairly conducted? (e.g. Briefing, Exam administration, marking arrangements, Board of Examiners, participation by External Examiners)**

Yes - all very well organised as usual

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

**3.6 Opinion on changes to the assessment procedures from previous years in which you have examined**

Everything is running smoothly and all my comments have been taken on board

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you, your comments are warmly received.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

4.1 Comments I have made in previous years have been addressed to my satisfaction

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: **NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

Good to hear

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

4.2 An acceptable response has been made

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: **NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

Good to know, than you again for your comments.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**



**4.4 I was able to scrutinise an adequate sample of students' work and marks to enable me to carry out my duties**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

Good, thank you for coming to review.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

**4.5 I attended the meeting of the Board of Examiners held to approve the results of the Examination**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you for coming.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

**4.6 Candidates were considered impartially and fairly**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you for meeting those that could attend.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

**4.7 The standards set for the awards are appropriate for qualifications at this level, in this subject**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

Good.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

**4.8 The standards of student performance are comparable with similar programmes or subjects in other UK institutions with which I am familiar**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

Good to know.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

**4.9 I have received enough support to carry out my role**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

Great, thank you again for all your hard work in examining.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

4.10 I have received sufficient information to carry out my role (where information was insufficient, please give details)

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: **NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

Course Director Response:

thank you

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

4.11 Appropriate procedures and processes have been followed

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: **NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

Course Director Response:

Thank you

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

**4.12 The processes for assessment and the determination of awards are sound**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you for your comments.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**