

Jennifer Barron
Education QA Programme Manager
GMC
2nd Floor
Regents Place
350 Euston Rd
LONDON NW1 3JN

Tuesday 11 March 2014

Dear Ms Barron,

REVIEW OF MANCHESTER MEDICAL SCHOOL 2014

I would like to formally thank the GMC visitors for what was a very positive experience for the School. We felt that the process was fair and that the report reinforced our own views and beliefs about our programme.

We have asked for feedback on the report from key academic and administrative staff and the only two responses I wished to draw to your attention are as follows:

1. Progress test in Year 3 – our Assessment Lead has asked us to draw to your attention that in the latest Progress Test in semester 1 of Year 3 the St Andrews students outperformed those of Manchester. We do however think that the students' perspective, whether correct or otherwise, needs to be addressed and we will work with St Andrews and implement a formative Progress Test at St Andrews for all students in their Year 3, semester 2.
2. Communications Teaching – our Lead for Communications Teaching was concerned that the way in which paragraph 10 of the report was worded might suggest that the quality of the student experience around communication might refer only to Phase 1. Could we ask that a comma be placed in para 10, after word 'communication' in line 6?

Having raised a particular concern at your visit regarding an increase in the number of HEI providers of medical education in the North West, you will not be surprised that in our action plan we have referred to this. This is in relation to the new private medical school at UCLAN. We consider that this might impact upon some of the areas of good practice and some of your recommendations identified in the report. In particular, having an additional 90 fee-paying clinical students being taught within one of our current LEPs and current community education providers, we feel this could have a negative effect on:

- Our students' access to patients and clinical skills experience on wards (GMC report para 2, lines 11 – 13.)

- Access to community based medical education placements.
- Our efforts to improve Widening Participation amongst student entry into medicine in the North West of England.
- Our ability to recruit clinical academic advisors for our students based at Preston.

We understand that the GMC is reviewing UCLAN's potential provision and would be grateful if our concerns could be taken into account.

Once again I would like to thank all the visitors for the way in which they conducted the review and in particular, in the manner in which they involved the School throughout.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tony Freemont', written in a cursive style.

Professor Tony Freemont
Head of School
Manchester Medical School