

28 June 2018

Dear Dr. Boden

External Examiner's report for MSc and PG Diplomas in Livestock Health and Production, and Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health (International Programmes) 2017

On behalf of the Royal Veterinary College Board of Examiners for Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health, and Livestock Health and Production, report for the University of London International Programmes MSc and PG Diploma and Certificates in Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health, and Livestock Health and Production for the 2017 academic year.

The External and Intercollegiate Examiner reports form an integral part of the assessment and quality assurance processes. All comments and points raised in the report have been considered and our formal response to key points is outlined below:

Examiner Comment	RVC Response
<p>Marking and sampling:</p> <p>One course highlighted a potential pitfall with the model answers and allocated scoring. There were numerous (n=13) significant (ranging from 20-30 points) discrepancies between examiners. Paradoxically, questions in which there were allocated points to model answers, suffered the greatest numbers of discrepancies. This is perhaps linked to 2 issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The use of a 10 point marking scale: deciding whether or not to penalise a minor error has large consequences. 2. Succinct model answers that allow for variable interpretation of allocation of marks between examiners. 	

Professor Neil Donald Sargison
University of Edinburgh
Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies
Easter Bush Veterinary Centre
Roslin
Midlothian EH25 9RG

28 June 2018

Dear Professor Sargison

**External Examiner's report for MSc and PG Diplomas in Livestock Health and Production, and
Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health (International Programmes) 2017**

On behalf of the Royal Veterinary College Board of Examiners for Livestock Health and Production,
and Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health, I would like to thank you for your External Examiner's
report for the University of London International Programmes MSc and PG Diplomas in Livestock
Health and Production, and Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health 0 595.2 [p675B.Lra2 5.54 42390086f1 0 0 1 88

Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate
qualifications in Livestock Health and Production.

Programme and assessment design:

1). Model answers were long and extremely detailed. This is helpful from an evaluator's perspective but unfortunately can create issues with regards to the precision of marking and the interpretation of the marking scheme. Where students were asked to give examples, the detail provided in the model answer inevitably overlooked certain pertinent and appropriate responses, inadvertently portraying an emphasis on regurgitation of facts ahead of demonstration of understanding of principles in the marking scheme. Criticism is unintended and unhelpful, but could be avoided by providing general headings and lists of key points to be included in the answer, rather than essay style model answers.

2). There is a need to be clear about the protocol for the role of observer in the assessment of this module: the observer should not be hidden during an electronically conducted oral examination, and candidate should be made aware of the observer's presence and role. There is a need for the examiners to be clear about each of the headings in the marking scheme for the oral examination, and to conduct the oral examination accordingly. The candidate should be given the opportunity to defend his/her work in each of the areas of the wider context of the work, study design, data analysis, or practical conclusions.