



## UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

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Dear External Examiners,

Many thanks for your respective reports on the MA programmes in the School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science for the academic year 2015-16. We very much value your dedicated service and have taken your comments very seriously.

Following our practice of producing single inclusive responses to external examiner reports on our MA programmes, we hereby send you this single response to all of your reports so that both you and we retain a clear overview of all issues arising. Although this inevitably makes our response to your valued reports a little less personal, we hope that you find it to be a helpful approach overall.

Regarding our Philosophy programme, we are pleased that [redacted] deemed the quality of the written feedback excellent overall. [redacted] also noted a couple of exceptions to the excellent quality and appropriate quantity of feedback, however. In response to this we will provide more explicit guidance in the marking feedback sheet regarding the expected nature and quality of MA level marking feedback.

With regard to our Theology and Religious Studies programmes, we are pleased to hear from [redacted] and [redacted] that the overall standard of work is high and that the marking is generally appropriate. Both examiners usefully raised some concerns about the consistency with which initial disagreements between markers are resolved. Although the current version of the feedback sheet already asks markers to comment on how the final mark was agreed, we evidently need to emphasize to markers the importance of more explicit information here, especially in cases where the initial divergence between markers considerable.

[redacted] queried whether we use proper blind marking in all MA modules. The answer is yes. [redacted] also queried whether the second marker's sheet is made available to the student. The answer is no: the first marker collates both markers' comments by incorporating suitable points from the second marker's comments into the feedback that the student receives.

Finally, with regard to our History & Philosophy of Science programmes, we were delighted to receive praise from [redacted] in relation to the content of the philosophy of science modules and the quality of the related assessed work. ([redacted] evaluated the philosophy of science

components of our HPS programmes. This year we did not have an external examiner evaluating the history of science components, and those components were ratified by other means.) We have taken on board comments, along with those of other of our external examiners, regarding the marking feedback sheet in redesigning it for 2016-17.

If you have any further comments, or if you feel that any of your original comments have not been adequately addressed above, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

(Head of School)