

**School of
Mathematics & Statistics**

Newcastle University
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 7RU UK

Professor G Robertson
Head of School

15th February 2007

Dear Vice-Chancellor,

External Examiner's Report on MSc/Dip in Applied Statistics (2005/6)

This is a well-run and attractive degree programme. Academic standards are high and the course admits students who are able to attain these standards. Those students falling just short of the standard required for a masters degree are awarded a diploma.

The assessment procedures for examinations and dissertations were clear and deadlines met. I had access to all materials needed by an external examiner and sufficient time to assess them.

I found the (double) marking of the exam papers (Paper I and Paper II) to be accurate. However, Paper II was rather tough and would benefit from slightly shorter questions in future. The new system for determining dissertation marks (by weighting together marks for six criteria) worked well and produced, in most cases, consistent marks between examiners.

Overall, I was very happy with the performances and degrees awarded in 2005/6.

Yours sincerely,

Prof R.J. Boys

Deputy Head of School