

PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (PAEC)

Thursday 13 February at 9.30am

via Microsoft Teams

Note of the 76th meeting of the QQI Programmes and Awards Executive Committee held via Microsoft Teams, at 2pm on **13 February 2025**.

Present:

Dr Pádraig Walsh (Chairperson)
Ms Andrea Durnin
Ms Barbara Kelly
Dr Jim Murray
Ms Marie Mattimoe
Ms Órla Barry
Ms Roisín Morris-Drennan

In attendance:

Ms Therese Masterson
Ms Alex Keys
Ms Laura McNamee
Ms Michelle Gallagher
Ms Mairéad Boland
Ms Katherine Walsh
Ms Vivienne Keeley

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Chairperson enquired and confirmed that there were no conflicts of interest in relation to any of the items of business before the Committee.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 27 NOVEMBER 2024

2.1 The Minutes of the PAEC Meeting held on 27 November 2024 were approved by the Committee.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Any matters arising were covered within agenda items and were discussed during the meeting.

4. NOTE OF THE MEETING, REPORT FOR THE BOARD, MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Note of Meeting of 27 November 2024

The Committee APPROVED the Note of the PAEC Meeting of 27 November 2024 for publication on the QQI website.

4.2 Report for the Board on the PAEC meeting of 27 November 2024

The Committee NOTED the Report for the Board on the PAEC Meeting of 24 September 2024.

4.3 Membership of the PAEC

The Committee NOTED the paper on membership.

At the QQI Board meeting on 10 February 2025, the Chief Executive informed the Board that he had decided to appoint Roisín Morris-Drennan to the Committee from 13 February 2025 for a period of three years, replacing Mary Grennan.

5. PROGRAMME VALIDATION APPLICATIONS

5.1 Further Education and Training (FET) Programmes

5.1.1 Forus Training

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed reports presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the programmes below for five years subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificates of Validation.

5.1.1.1 PG25830, Start Your Own Business, Level 5, Minor Award, 15 FET credits
CAS Award

5.1.1.2 PG25831, Training Delivery and Evaluation, Level 6, Minor Award, 15 FET credits
CAS Award

5.1.2 Mayo Sligo & Leitrim Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation and the detailed reports presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the programmes below for five years subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificates of Validation.

5.1.2.1 PG26207, Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Crisis Communications in a Digital Age, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 10 FET Credits

5.1.2.2 PG26267, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Workplace Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

5.1.3 Laois & Offaly Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed reports presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the programme below for five years subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificate of Validation.

5.1.3.1 PG25923, Level 4 Specific Purpose Certificate in Retrofit Assistant Skills, Level 4, Special Purpose Award, 10 FET Credits

5.2 Further Education and Training (FET) Programmes – Differential Validation

5.2.1 The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programmes listed below were presented for validation to lead to the **Level 1 Specific Purpose Certificate in English for Speakers of Other Languages**. The programmes are based on a curriculum *originally Cavan & Monaghan ETB in April 2024*. Each was screened to ensure that there was only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 1 Specific Purpose Certificate in English for Speakers of Other Languages, Level 1, Special Purpose Award, 20 FET credits, PDAS

Certificate in Speaking and Listening, Level 1, Minor Award, 10 FET Credits

Certificate in Writing, Level 1, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits

Certificate in Reading, Level 1, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- **Laois & Offaly Education and Training Board** PG26225, PG26227, PG26228, PG26229

5.2.2 The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated as. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programmes listed below were presented for validation to lead to the **Level 2 Specific Purpose Certificate in English for Speakers of Other Languages**. The programmes are based on a curriculum *originally validated for Cavan & Monaghan ETB in April 2024*. Each was screened to ensure that there is only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 2 Specific Purpose Certificate in English for Speakers of Other Languages, Level 2, Special Purpose Award, 20 FET credits, PDAS

Certificate in Speaking and Listening, Level 2, Minor Award, 10 FET Credits

Certificate in Writing, Level 2, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits

Certificate in Reading, Level 2, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- **Laois & Offaly Education and Training Board** PG26270, PG26273, PG26272, PG26271

5.2.3 The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programmes listed below were presented for validation to lead to **Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Sustainable Supply Chain Procurement**. The programmes are based on a curriculum *originally validated for Cavan & Monaghan ETB in April 2023*. Each was screened to ensure that there is only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Sustainable Supply Chain Procurement, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits, PDAS

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

- **Mayo Sligo & Leitrim Education and Training Board** PG26277

5.2.4 The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programmes listed below were presented for validation to lead to the **Level 2 Specific Purpose Certificate in English for Speakers of Other Languages**. The programmes are based on a curriculum *originally validated for Cavan & Monaghan ETB in April 2024*. It was screened to ensure that there is only variation from the curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 3 Specific Purpose Certificate in Drugs and Alcohol Awareness, Level 3, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

- **Laois & Offaly Education and Training Board** PG26203

5.2.5 The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programmes listed below were presented for validation to lead to the **Level 3 Specific Purpose Certificate in Managing the Sustainable Home**. The programmes are based on a curriculum *Originally validated for Cavan & Monaghan ETB in July 2024*. Each was screened to ensure that there is only variation from the curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 3 Specific Purpose Certificate in Managing the Sustainable Home, Level 3, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET credits, PDAS

Certificate in Sustainable Home Finances, Level 3, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits

Certificate in Food Management for a Sustainable Home, Level 3, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits

Certificate in Utilities Management for a Sustainable Home, Level 3, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

- **Donegal Education and Training Board** PG26335, PG26337, PG26338, PG26339

5.3 Higher Education and Training Programmes – Programme Validation

5.3.1 Consortium of Centres of Nursing and Midwifery Education (CCNME)

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed reports presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the programmes below for three years subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificate of Validation.

5.3.1.1 PG25533, Certificate in Nurse Authority to Refer Adults for Radiological Procedures, Level 8, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits

5.3.1.2 PG25675, Certificate in Nurse Authority to Refer Adults and Children for Radiological Procedures, Level 8, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits

5.3.1.3 PG25685, Certificate in Nurse Authority to Refer Children for Radiological Procedures, Level 8, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits

5.3.2 Griffith College

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed reports presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the programmes below for five years subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificate of Validation.

- 5.3.2.1 PG26127, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Sustainable Tourism Management, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits
PG26128, Certificate in Green Management Skills, Level 6, Minor Award, 5 Credits
PG26129, Certificate in Digital Marketing for Small-Medium Tourism Enterprises, Level 7, Minor Award, 20 Credits

- 5.3.2.2 PG26130, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Sustainable Tourism Practice and Management, Level 8, Major Award, 60 Credits

PG26278, Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Quality Systems Validation and Technology, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG26279, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Pharmaceutical Quality Systems Validation and Technology, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits

PG26280, Certificate in Pharmaceutical Quality Systems Validation, Level 9, Minor Award, 25 Credits

The documentation for the above three programmes was included in the documentation for 6.2.2.2

5.4 Devolution of Responsibility for Validation Sub-Processes

No Business

5.5 Validation of Research Degree Programmes

No Business

5.6 Apprenticeship Programmes

No Business

6. REVALIDATION

6.1 Application for Extension of Validation Period

6.1.1 IICP Education and Training Limited

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. IICP Education and Training Limited requested a one-year extension of validation for the following programmes:

- 6.1.1.1 PG24497, Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy, Level 8, Major Award, 240 credits
PG24504, Bachelor of Science in Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy, Level 7, Major Award, 180 credits (*Exit-Only Award*)
PG24500, Higher Certificate in Science in Counselling and Psychotherapeutic Studies, Level 6, Major Award, 120 credits (*Exit-Only Award*)
PG24501, Certificate in Counselling and Psychotherapeutic Studies, Level 6, Special Award, 20 credits

PG24502, Certificate in Suicide Postvention, Level 7, Minor Award, 10 credits
PG24503, Certificate in Improving Clinical Outcomes, Level 8, Minor Award, 10 credits

The rationale for this request was as follows:

IICP Education and Training Limited wished to extend the duration of the above programmes by one year to align the revalidation of the programmes with the counselling and psychotherapy regulations due for imminent publication by the professional body, CORU. An extension request for one year was being sought for the above programmes to allow the team to conduct its review and submit a revalidation that is informed by the CORU standards.

The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programmes for one year.

6.1.2 Hibernia College

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. Hibernia College requested a one-year extension of validation for the following programmes:

- 6.1.2.1 PG24317, Bachelor of Education (Honours) in Early Childhood Education, Level 8, Major Award, 240 credits
- PG24899, Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Education, Level 7, Major Award, 180 credits (*Exit-Only Award*)

The rationale for this request was as follows:

Hibernia College wished to extend the duration of the above programme, as to date, no learners have enrolled on the programme and therefore would be unable to conduct a meaningful programme review that is required as part of the revalidation process. The Nurturing Skills Learner Fund (NSLF) in 2023 has since created an opportunity to enable recruitment of learners to the Hibernia College programme. This initiative provides targeted financial support to learners, thus making the programme more accessible to a broader range of learners. With the assistance of the NSLF funding, Hibernia College intend enrolling learners to the programme for the first time in September 2025, which will assist in the programme review for the revalidation process.

The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programme for one year to September 2025.

6.2 Applications for Revalidation

6.2.1 Independent College

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED the revalidation of the following programmes for five years, subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificate of Validation:

- 6.2.1.1 PG26283, Master of Arts in Dispute Resolution, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
- PG26284, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Dispute Resolution, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits, *Exit-Only Award**

6.2.2 Griffith College

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED the revalidation of the following programmes for five years, subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificate of Validation:

6.2.2.1 PG26161, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Holistic Counselling and Psychotherapy, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits

PG26269, Certificate in Holistic Counselling and Psychotherapy, Level 6, Minor Award, 60 Credits

6.2.2.2 *Programmes listed under 5.3.2*

6.2.3 Children's Therapy Centre

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED the revalidation of the following programmes for five years, subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificate of Validation:

6.2.3.1 PG26296, Master of Arts in Creative Psychotherapy and Play Therapy, Level 9, Major Award, 120 Credits

PG26336, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Play Therapy, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit-Only Award*)

PG26346, Certificate in Creative Therapeutic Practice, Level 9, Minor Award, 10 Credits*

PG26347, Certificate in Neurobiologically and Trauma Informed Therapy, Level 9, Minor Award, 10 Credits*

PG26348, Certificate in Child and Adolescent Therapy, Level 9, Minor Award, 15 Credits*

6.2.4 Dublin Business School

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED the revalidation of the following programmes for five years, subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificate of Validation:

6.2.4.1 PG25845, Master of Science in Business Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG25846, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Business Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits, *Exit-Only Award*

6.2.5 SOLAS

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED the revalidation of the following programmes for five years, subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificate of Validation:

6.2.5.1 PG26301, Advanced Certificate in Craft – Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, Level 6, Major Award, 240 FET Credits

6.3 Application for Modification of Validated Programmes

6.3.1 Farm Ed.

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The modification request relates to an increase in the maximum enrolment numbers from 240 per programme per annum to a staggered increase during the course of the current validation period to 480 learners per programme.

The Committee APPROVED the modifications to the following programmes:

- 6.3.1.1 PG25760, Agriculture, Level 5, CAS Major Award, 120 Credits
- PG24630, Farming, Level 6, CAS Special Purpose Award, 50 Credits

7. FOLLOW-UP ON PAEC RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONDITIONS IN PANEL REPORTS

7.1 Update on the follow-up of conditions of validation

No business

7.2 Update on the follow-up of conditions of QA Approval

No business

8. QA FOR COLLABORATIVE AND TRANSNATIONAL PROVISION

No Business

9. APPROVAL OF QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURES FOR EXTENSION OF SCOPE OF PROVISION

No business

10. ROUTINE STANDARDS ACTIVITIES UPDATE

No Business

11. CHANGE OF STATUS OF LEGACY HET AND FET PROVIDERS

No Business

12. REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (PAOC)

12.1 REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (PAOC)

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

At its meeting on 13 December 2024, the PAOC reviewed the decisions of the PAEC meeting of April 2024, November 2024 to refuse validation of programmes.

The PAOC confirmed the decision of the PAEC to refuse validation of the programmes:

13. INTENTION TO WITHDRAW VALIDATION OF PROGRAMMES

No business

14. WITHDRAWAL OF VALIDATION OF PROGRAMMES/WITHDRAWAL OF PROVIDER QA APPROVAL

No business

15. SOLAS - UPDATE REPORT ON APPRENTICESHIP

15.1 SOLAS – Update Report on Apprenticeship

The Committee NOTED the Update Report on Apprenticeship which was circulated in advance of the meeting.

The Committee discussed the report which included an update on recent engagement with SOLAS.

The Committee requested that SOLAS provide an overview of the governance structures and processes associated with craft apprenticeship programmes.