

**PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (PAEC)**

**Tuesday 19 October 2021 at 9:30am**

**via Microsoft Teams**

Note of the 56th meeting of the QQI Programmes and Awards Executive Committee held via Microsoft Teams, at 9:30am on **Tuesday 19 October 2021.**

**Present:**

Dr Pdraig Walsh (Chairperson)  
Ms Andrina Wafer  
Ms Angela Lambkin  
Dr Bryan Maguire  
Dr John O'Connor

**In attendance:**

Ms Therese Masterson (Key Executive)  
Ms Janet Cawley (Secretary)  
Ms Liliana O'Reilly  
Ms Marie Mattimoe  
Ms Michelle Gallagher  
Ms Laura McNamee  
Mr Jim Murray  
Ms Mary Grennan  
Ms Katherine Walsh  
Ms Lisa Kehoe  
Ms Orla Barry

**Apologies:**

Ms Barbara Kelly  
Ms Marie Gould

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

**2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 9 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**2.1** The Minutes of the PAEC Meeting held on 9 September 2021 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**

**4.1 Note of Meeting of 9 September 2021**

The Committee APPROVED the Note of the PAEC Meeting of 9 September 2021 for publication on the QQI website.

**4.2 Report for the Board on the Meeting of 9 September 2021**

The Committee NOTED the Report for the Board on the PAEC Meeting of 9 September 2021.

**5. PROGRAMME VALIDATION APPLICATIONS**

## **5.1 Further Education and Training (FET) Programmes**

### **5.1.1 Bridge Mills Galway Language Centre**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

5.1.1.1 PG24633, Certificate in Training and Development, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 30 FET Credits, *CAS Award*

### **5.1.2 Gaelchultúr Teoranta**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

5.1.2.1 PG24715, Teastas sa Ghaeilge Ghairmiúil - Leibhéal 2 (A1) / Certificate in Professional Irish - Level 2 (A1), Level 2, Minor Award x3, 15 FET Credits, *CAS Award*

### **5.1.3 Limerick and Clare ETB**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

5.1.3.1 PG24735, Legal Studies, Level 5, Major Award, 120 FET Credits, CAS Award, ETB Sharing of Validated Programmes

## **5.2 Higher Education and Training Programmes – Programme Validation**

### **5.2.1 Griffith College**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed reports presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

5.2.1.1 PG24618, Certificate in Industrial Manufacturing and Maintenance Skills, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 20 Credits

PG24620, Certificate in Industrial Electrical Safety and Systems, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 5 Credits

5.2.1.2 PG24539, Certificate in Advanced Taxation, Level 9, Special Purpose Award, 25 Credits, *Microcredential*

5.2.1.3 PG24535, Certificate in Digital Sales Transformation, Level 7, Special Purpose Award, 30 Credits, *Microcredential*

### **5.2.2 Hibernia College**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

5.2.2.1 PG24567, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Business Data Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits

### 5.2.3 Independent Colleges

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

5.2.3.1 PG24566, Certificate in Public Service Pensions Management, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits

### 5.2.4 Saint Nicholas Montessori College Ireland

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

5.2.4.1 PG24526, Certificate in Pedagogical Leadership in Early Years, Level 8, Special Purpose Award, 20 Credits, *Microcredential*

## 5.3 Devolution of Responsibility for Validation Sub-Processes

No Business

## 5.4 Validation of Research Degree Programmes

No Business

## 5.5 Apprenticeship Programmes

No Business

## 6. REVALIDATION

### 6.1 Application for Extension of Validation Period

No Business

### 6.2 Applications for Revalidation

No Business

### 6.3 Request for Modification of Validated Programmes

#### 6.3.1 Carlow College, St Patrick's

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. Carlow College requested the inclusion of a new 5 ECTS elective 'Theology of Social Justice and Applied Ethics' module to the following three validated programmes:

6.3.1.1 PG23972, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Social, Political and Community Studies, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits

PG23978, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Arts and Humanities, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits

PG23980, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Applied Social Studies (Professional Social Care), Level 8, Major Award, 60 Credits

This interdisciplinary module was developed to address two recommendations made by the expert panel who evaluated these programmes during their review and revalidation in July 2018.

The Committee APPROVED the inclusion of the new *Theology of Social Justice and Applied Ethics* elective module to the three validated programmes above.

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

### **7.1 Update on the follow-up of conditions of QA Approval**

As part of its internal quality assurance procedures, the executive is required to follow up on any Conditions of QA Approval imposed by the Programmes and Awards Executive Committee (PAEC).

#### **7.1.1 Dublin Institute of Design**

At its meeting on 24 June 2021, the PAEC approved the QA procedures of Dublin Institute of Design with two Conditions of QA Approval.

The Committee NOTED that the executive now considers the two conditions to be met and that no further follow-up is required.

## **8. QA FOR COLLABORATIVE AND TRANSNATIONAL PROVISION**

No Business

## **9. APPROVAL OF QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURES FOR LEGACY PROVIDERS (RE-ENGAGEMENT)**

### **9.1 A Named Provider**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee REFUSED TO APPROVE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS the quality assurance procedures for blended learning of the named provider (pending mandatory changes being made). The named provider may submit revised procedures for approval within a six-month period of notification of this decision.

### **9.2 A Named Provider**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee REFUSED TO APPROVE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS the quality assurance procedures of the named provider (pending mandatory changes being made). The named provider may submit revised procedures for approval within a six-month period of notification of this decision.

### **9.3 Liffey College**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS the quality assurance procedures of Liffey College.

The Committee NOTED that all mandatory changes confirmed by the PAEC at its meeting on 4 February 2021 had been satisfactorily addressed.

The Committee NOTED that the executive now considers the two conditions to be met and that no further follow-up is required.

#### **9.4 A Named Provider**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee REFUSED TO APPROVE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS the quality assurance procedures of the named provider (pending mandatory changes being made). The named provider may submit revised procedures for approval within a six-month period of notification of this decision.

#### **9.5 Kingstown College**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS the quality assurance procedures of Kingstown College.

The Committee NOTED that all mandatory changes confirmed by the PAEC at its meeting on 3 December 2020 had been satisfactorily addressed.

The Committee NOTED that the executive now considers the seven conditions to be met and that no further follow-up is required.

#### **9.6 Harvest Resources Ltd**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS the quality assurance procedures of Harvest Resources Ltd.

The Committee NOTED that all mandatory changes confirmed by the PAEC at its meeting on 8 April 2021 had been satisfactorily addressed.

The Committee NOTED that the executive now considers the condition to be met and that no further follow-up is required.

#### **9.7 DCM Learning - Blended Learning QA Approval**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED the quality assurance procedures for blended learning of DCM Learning.

The Committee noted that at the time of its overall application for initial access to validation in 2016, DCM's procedures for blended learning were not developed. A bespoke evaluation process was put in place and a panel appointed comprising of a Chair, QA Expert/Report writer and a blended learning expert. DCM has accepted the findings of the report and has agreed to implement the advised improvements set out by the panel.

### **10. ROUTINE STANDARDS ACTIVITIES UPDATE**

No Business

### **11. CHANGE OF STATUS OF LEGACY HET AND FET PROVIDERS**

#### **11.1 Change of Status of Legacy HET and FET Providers**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

Two providers were to have their QA Agreements rescinded and the validation of their programmes withdrawn, due to voluntary decision by the providers not to reengage.

The two providers listed in the documentation have been met virtually by QQI and have had the opportunity to agree a wind-down process to ensure that any programme in process and/or certification in process has been completed.

The Committee APPROVED the withdrawal of approval of the providers' quality assurance and withdrawal of validation of the associated programmes. The executive will send a registered letter of notification to each provider.

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

### **12.1 Report from the Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee of 7 October 2021**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. At its meeting on 7 October 2021, the PAOC reviewed the decisions of the PAEC meeting of 3 December 2020 to refuse validation of one programme:

The PAOC CONFIRMED the decision of the PAEC to refuse validation of the programme.