

PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (PAEC)

Thursday 21 September 2023 at 9:30am

via Microsoft Teams

Note of the 68th meeting of the QQI Programmes and Awards Executive Committee held via Microsoft Teams, at 9:30am on **21 September 2023**.

Present:

Dr Pdraig Walsh (Chairperson)
Ms Andrea Durnin
Ms Barbara Kelly
Dr Jim Murray
Dr John O'Connor
Ms Mary Grennan
Ms Órla Barry

In attendance:

Ms Therese Masterson
Ms Janet Cawley (Secretary)
Ms Laura McNamee
Ms Marie Mattimoe
Ms Michelle Gallagher
Mr Walter Balfe

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 13 JULY 2023

2.1 The Minutes of the PAEC Meeting held on 13 July 2023 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 13 July 2023

The Committee APPROVED the Note of the PAEC Meeting of 13 July 2023 for publication on the QQI website.

4.2 Report for the Board on the PAEC meeting of 8 June 2023

The Committee NOTED the Report for the Board on the PAEC Meeting of 8 June 2023.

4.3 Report for the Board on the PAEC meeting of 13 July 2023

The Committee NOTED the Report for the Board on the PAEC Meeting of 13 July 2023.

5. PROGRAMME VALIDATION APPLICATIONS

5.1 Further Education and Training (FET) Programmes

5.1.1 Portobello Institute

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report 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:

- 5.1.1.1 PG25213, Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 FET Credits
- PG25214, Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 5, Major Award, 120 FET Credits, *non-CAS*

5.1.2 Irish Deaf Society

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report 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:

- 5.1.2.1 PG25178, Irish Sign Language, Level 5, Minor Award, 15 FET Credits, *CAS Award*

5.1.3 Bord Iascaigh Mhara

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report 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:

- 5.1.3.1 PG25360 Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Fishing Vessel Engineering Skills, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 60 FET Credits
- PG25370 Certificate in Marine Engineering Processes and Operations, Level 5, Minor Award, 15 FET Credits, *Non-CAS*

5.1.4 National Organic Training Skillnet

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report 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 Certificates of Validation:

- 5.1.4.1 PG25534, Organic Farming Principles, Level 5, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits, *CAS Award*

5.1.5 College of Management and IT (CMIT)

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report 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:

- 5.1.5.1 PG25183, Advanced Certificate in Digital Marketing, Level 6, Major Award, 120 FET Credits
- PG25184, Certificate in Digital Marketing Strategy, Level 6, Minor Award, 20 FET Credits
- PG25185, Certificate in SEO, Search and Email Marketing, Level 6, Minor Award, 20 FET Credits
- PG25186, Certificate in Business Data Analytics, Level 6, Minor Award, 20 FET Credits
- PG25187, Certificate in Advanced Web Design, Level 6, Minor Award, 20 FET Credits
- PG25188, Certificate in Digital Business Models, Level 6, Minor Award, 20 FET Credits
- PG25189, Certificate in Social Media Marketing, Level 6, Minor Award, 20 FET Credits, *Non-CAS*

5.1.6 Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report 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 Certificates of Validation:

- 5.1.6.1 PG25473, Level 3 Specific Purpose Certificate in Introduction to Sustainability, Level 3, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits, *non-CAS*

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 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Resource Efficiency for Sustainability. The programmes are all based on a curriculum originally validated for *Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB in December 2022*. Each was screened to ensure that there was only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Resource Efficiency for Sustainability, Special Purpose Award (5 FET Credits), *Non-CAS*

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- **Tipperary Education and Training Board:** PG25535
- **Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board:** PG25563

- 5.2.2 The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programme listed below was presented for validation to lead to the Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in The Circular Economy in the Workplace, Special Purpose Award. The programme is based on a curriculum originally validated for *Dublin and Dun Laoghaire ETB in April 2023*. It was screened to ensure that there is only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in The Circular Economy in the Workplace, Special Purpose Award (5 FET Credits) *non-CAS*

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- **Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board:** PG25522
- **Tipperary Education and Training Board:** PG25536
- **Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board:** PG25532
- **Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board:** PG25564

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 programme listed below was presented for validation to lead to the Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Utilising Robotics in Advanced Manufacturing Special Purpose Award. The programme is based on a curriculum originally validated for *Louth and Meath ETB in July 2022*. It was screened to ensure that there is only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Utilising Robotics in Advanced Manufacturing Special Purpose Award (30 FET Credits)

Certificate in Fundamentals of Robotics, Level 6, Minor Award (5 FET Credits)

Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals and Application Identification, Level 6, Minor Award (10 FET Credits)

Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals with Robot Integration, Level 6, Minor Award (10 FET Credits)

Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals and Robot Programming, Level 6, Minor Award (15 FET Credits)

Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals, Development and Future Trends, Level 6, Minor Award (10 FET Credits) non-CAS

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- **Kerry Education and Training Board:** PG25464, PG25466, PG25485, PG25520, PG25521, PG25523
- **Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board:** PG25313, PG25527, PG25528, PG25529, PG25530, PG25531
- **Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board:** PG25538, PG25539, PG25540, PG25541, PG25542, PG25543

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 was presented for validation to lead to the Certificate in Managing Money in Everyday Life, Level 2, Minor Award. The programme is based on a curriculum originally validated for *Cavan and Monaghan ETB in February 2023*. It was screened to ensure that there is only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Certificate in Managing Money in Everyday Life, Level 2, Minor Award (5 FET Credits) non-CAS

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

- **Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board:** PG25519
- **Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board:** PG25558

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 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Business Innovation and Market Development, Special Purpose Award. The programmes are based on a curriculum originally validated for *Cavan and Monaghan ETB in December 2022*. They were screened to ensure that there is only variation from the curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Business Innovation and Market Development, Special Purpose Award (30 FET Credits)

Certificate in Business Idea Generation, Minor Award (5 FET Credits)

Certificate in Business Idea Validation, Minor Award (5 FET Credits)

Certificate in Market Exploration, Minor Award (5 FET Credits)

Certificate in Customer Acquisition, Minor Award (5 FET Credits)

Certificate in Market Development, Minor Award (5 FET Credits)

Certificate in Customer Retention and Scaling, Minor Award (5 FET Credits) non-CAS

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- **Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board:** PG25545, PG25546, PG25547, PG25548, PG25549, PG25550, PG25551
- **Tipperary Education and Training Board:** PG25482, PG25552, PG25553, PG25554, PG25555, PG25556, PG25557
- **Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board:** PG25565, PG25566, PG25567, PG25568, PG25569, PG25570, PG25571

5.2.6 The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programme listed below were presented for validation to lead to the Level 3 Specific Purpose Certificate in Exploring our Past, Level 3, Special Purpose Award. The programmes are based on a curriculum originally validated for *Limerick and Clare ETB in April 2023*. They were screened to ensure that there is only variation from the curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 3 Specific Purpose Certificate in Exploring our Past, Level 3, Special Purpose Award (10 FET Credits) non-CAS

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

- **Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board:** PG25562

5.2.7 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 Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 6, Major Award. The programmes are based on a curriculum originally validated for *Dublin and Dun Laoghaire ETB in July 2021*. They were screened to ensure that there is only variation from the curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 6, Major Award (120 FET Credits)

Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 5, Major Award, (120 FET Credits) Non-CAS

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- **Jesus and Mary Secondary School:** PG25224, PG25230

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 report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the programme below for three years subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificates of Validation:

5.3.1.1 PG25176, Certificate in An Introduction to Psychosocial Interventions for Nurses and Midwives, Level 8, Special Purpose Award, 20 Credits, *Microcredential*

5.3.2 CCT College Dublin

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 PG25322, Master of Science in Cybersecurity, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
PG25326, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Cybersecurity, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits

5.3.2.2 PG25324, Master of Science in Computing, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
PG25327, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Computing, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits

5.3.2.3 PG25318, Higher Diploma in Science in Cybersecurity, Level 8, Major Award, 60 Credits

5.3.2.4 PG25317, Diploma in Business Innovation, Level 7, Special Purpose Award, 60 Credits

5.3.3 IICP College

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report 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:

5.3.3.1 PG25460, Certificate in Clinical Work with Substance Using Clients Studies, Level 8, Minor Award, 5 Credits
PG25459, Certificate in Trauma Informed Therapy Studies, Level 8, Minor Award, 5 Credits, *Differential Validation*

5.3.4 Griffith College

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

5.3.4.1 PG25461, Certificate in Strategic Supply Management for MMC, Level 8, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits, *Microcredential*

5.3.5 Irish College of Humanities and Applied Sciences Limited

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:

5.3.5.1 PG24807, Master of Arts in Work Related Psychology, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG24811, Master of Arts in Work-Related Behaviour with Customer Relationship Management, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG24810, Master of Arts in Work-related Behaviour with Mentoring & Coaching, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG24809, Master of Arts in Work-related Behaviour with Entrepreneurship, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG24808, Master of Arts in Work-related Behaviour with Leadership & Management, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG24812, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Work-related Psychology, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit-Only Award*)

PG25572, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Work-related Behaviour, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit-Only Award*)

PG24817, Certificate in Customer Relationship Management, Level 9, Minor Award, 20 Credits

PG24816, Certificate in Work-related Mentoring & Coaching, Level 9, Minor Award, 20 Credits

PG24815, Certificate in Organisational Behaviour & Entrepreneurship, Level 9, Minor Award, 30 Credits

PG24814, Certificate in Work-related Leadership, Teamwork & Change Management, Level 9, Minor Award, 20 Credits

PG24813, Certificate in Work-related Behaviour, Level 9, Minor Award, 30 Credits

5.3.6 National College of Ireland

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

5.3.6.1 PG25302, Certificate in Technology Enhanced Learning and Digital Learning Design, Level 9, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits, *Microcredential*

5.3.7 Innopharma Education

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report 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:

5.3.7.1 PG25211, Bachelor of Science in Process Digitalisation, Level 7, Major Award, 60 Credits

PG25225, Certificate in Operational Excellence and Sustainability in Supply Chain, Level 7, Minor Award, 30 Credits

PG25226, Certificate in Automation and Data Analysis for Process Control, Level 7, Minor Award, 30 Credits

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 National College of Ireland

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

- 6.1.1.1 PG24034, Certificate in Learning and Technology, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits. Proposed new date of last intake - **31 January 2025**
- PG24035, Certificate in Technology Enhanced Learning, Level 7, Special Purpose Award, 30 Credits. Proposed new date of last intake - **31 January 2025**
- PG24573, Certificate in Digital Capabilities and the Learner Experience, Level 7, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits. Proposed new date of last intake - **31 August 2025**
- PG24574, Certificate in Technologies in Teaching and Learning, Level 7, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits. Proposed new date of last intake - **31 August 2025**
- PG24575, Certificate in Technologies in Assessment, Feedback and Learning Support, Level 7, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits. Proposed new date of last intake - **31 August 2025**

The rationale for this request was as follows:

NCI wished to align the review and revalidation of the overarching Level 7 Certificate programme and the review and revalidation of the Special Purpose Awards (SPAs). This review would include the latter's continuing merit as micro-credentials within a larger, parent programme. In this context, NCI were seeking an extension for these SPAs as well as the Level 7 Certificate, so that all programmes could be reviewed and revalidated together.

In relation to the Level 6 Certificate in Learning and Technology programme, there is a natural progression pathway for graduates into the Level 7 Certificate or one of the SPAs. In this context, and also in the context of developing wider Centre for Education and Lifelong Learning (CELL) and NCI strategy in relation to FE-HE learning pathways, NCI requested extensions of validation to align the programme review of the Level 6 programme, and SPAs with the Level 7 programme review.

The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake dates of the programmes as above.

6.2 Applications for Revalidation

6.2.1 Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED the revalidation of the following programme 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 PG25280, Advanced Certificate in Sales, Level 6, Major Award, 170 FET Credits, *Apprenticeship*

6.3 Request for Modification of Validated Programmes

6.3.1 Griffith College

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

Griffith College requested modifications to the Certificate of Validation for the BA (Hons) in Graphic Communication Design and the BA in Graphic Communication Design to reflect changes to the titles of core design modules following a recent programme review.

6.3.1.1 PG24684 Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Graphic Communication Design, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

PG24685 Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Communication Design, Level 7 Major Award, 180 Credits

The Committee APPROVED the modifications to the programmes as requested by Griffith College.

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

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.

7.2.1 Central Remedial Clinic

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. At its meeting on 8 June 2023, the PAEC approved the QA procedures of the Central Remedial Clinic with four conditions of QA Approval and NOTED that conditions 1,2 and 4 had already been met.

The Committee NOTED that the executive now considers condition 3 to be met.

8. QA FOR COLLABORATIVE AND TRANSNATIONAL PROVISION

No Business

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

9.1 Usafety

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS the quality assurance procedures of Usafety.

The Committee NOTED that the executive now considers conditions 1, 2 and 3 of QA approval to be met.

9.2 MIDAS Learning

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee APPROVED the quality assurance procedures of MIDAS Learning.

9.3 Dublinia DAC

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS the quality assurance procedures of Dublinia DAC.

The Committee NOTED that the executive now considers conditions 1, 2a and 3 of QA approval to be met.

9.4 Ballymun Youth Action Project

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee APPROVED WITH A CONDITION the quality assurance procedures of Ballymun Youth Action Project.

The Committee NOTED that the executive now considers the condition of QA approval to be met.

9.5 Irish Wheelchair Association

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS the quality assurance procedures of Irish Wheelchair Association.

9.6 Liberties Inchicore Rialto Training

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS the quality assurance procedures of Liberties Inchicore Rialto Training.

The Committee NOTED that the executive now considers condition 1 of QA approval to be met.

10. ROUTINE STANDARDS ACTIVITIES UPDATE

No Business

11. CHANGE OF STATUS OF LEGACY HET AND FET PROVIDERS

No Business

12. WITHDRAWAL OF PROVIDER QA APPROVAL

12.1 Withdrawal of Provider QA Approval

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. A Named Provider which had previously achieved QA approval through the reengagement process was to have QA Approval and Programme Validation withdrawn as it has ceased to trade.

The Committee APPROVED the withdrawal of approval of the named provider's quality assurance and withdrawal of validation of the associated programmes.

QQI will certify the learners for one programme subject to assurance being provided that the learners completed the same programme as was approved by the evaluation panel.

The executive will send a registered letter of notification to the provider.

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

13.1 Report from the Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee of 17 July 2023.

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. At its meeting on 17 July 2023, the PAOC reviewed the decisions of the PAEC meetings of December 2022, February 2023, April 2023 and June 2023 to refuse validation of a number of programmes.

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

14. SOLAS - UPDATE REPORT ON APPRENTICESHIP

14.1 SOLAS - Update Report on Apprenticeship

The Committed NOTED the updated status report on Apprenticeships.