PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (PAEC)

Thursday 9 February 2023 at 10:15am

via Microsoft Teams

Note of the 64th meeting of the QQI Programmes and Awards Executive Committee held via Microsoft Teams, at 10:15am on **9 February 2023.**

Present:	**In attendance:**
Dr Padraig Walsh (Chairperson)	Ms Therese Masterson
Ms Andrea Durnin	Ms Janet Cawley (Secretary)
Ms Barbara Kelly (Items 9.11-14)	Ms Alex Keys
Dr Jim Murray	Mr Walter Balfe
Dr John O'Connor	Ms Laura McNamee
Ms Mary Grennan	Ms Marie Mattimoe
Ms Órla Barry	Ms Michelle Gallagher
	Ms Orlaith O'Loughlin

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 1 DECEMBER 2022

2.1 The Minutes of the PAEC Meeting held on 1 December 2022 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 OF 1 DECEMBER 2022

4.1 Note of Meeting of 1 December 2022

The Committee APPROVED the Note of the PAEC Meeting of 1 December 2022 for publication on the QQI website.

5. PROGRAMME VALIDATION APPLICATIONS

5.1 Further Education and Training (FET) Programmes

5.1.1 DCM Learning

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:

5.1.1.1 PG24985, Training and Development, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 30 FET Credits, *CAS Award*

5.1.2 NCU CLG

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:

5.1.2.1 PG24740, Professional Homecare Support Skills, Level 5, Major Award, 120 FET Credits, *CAS* Award

5.1.2.2 PG24820, Supervisory Management: Professional Homecare Support Skills, Level 6, Major Award, 120 FET Credits, *CAS Award*

5.1.3 Limerick and Clare 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:

5.1.3.1 PG25193, Outdoor Sport and Recreation, Level 5, Major Award, 120 FET Credits, *CAS Award*, *ETB Sharing of Validated Programmes*

5.1.4 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 Certificate of Validation:

5.1.4.1 PG25125, Certificate in Managing Money in Everyday Life, Level 2, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits, *Non-CAS, Microcredential*

5.1.5 Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board

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:

5.1.5.1 PG25046, Level 3 Specific Purpose Certificate in Learning to Support Children in Primary School, Level 3, Special Purpose Award, 25 FET Credits

PG25048, Certificate in Supporting Children with Learning in Primary School, Level 3, Minor Award, 10 FET Credits

PG25049, Certificate in Supporting Children with Literacy in Primary School, Level 3, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits

PG25050, Certificate in Supporting Children with Digital Literacy in Primary School, Level 3, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits

PG25051, Certificate in Supporting Children with Maths in Primary School, Level 3, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits, *Non-CAS, Microcredential*

5.1.6 UniHaven Limited

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:

5.1.6.1 PG25170, Specific Purpose Certificate in International Foundation Studies, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 120 FET credits, *Non-CAS*

5.1.7 International Centre for Security Excellence

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:

5.1.7.1 PG25143, Door Security, Level 4, Minor Award, 10 FET credits, *CAS Award*

5.1.7.2 PG25131, Security Guarding Skills, Level 4, Minor Award, 10 FET credits, *CAS Award*

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

5.2.1 Digital Media Production, Level 6, Major Award, 120 FET Credits
Originally validated for Cork Education and Training Board in September 2022.

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 Major Award in Digital Media Production*. The programmes are all based on a curriculum validated for Cork Education and Training Board in September 2022. Each was screened to ensure that there was only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board
PG25168, Digital Media Production, Level 6, Major Award, 120 FET Credits

Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board
PG25174, Digital Media Production, Level 6, Major Award, 120 FET Credits

CAS, Differential Validation

5.2.2 **Level 5, Specific Purpose Certificate in Resource Efficiency for a Sustainable Workplace**
Originally validated for Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board in December 2022.

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 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Resource Efficiency for a Sustainable Workplace.* The programme is based on a curriculum validated for Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board in December 2022. It was screened to ensure that there is only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board

PG25192, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Resource Efficiency for a Sustainable Workplace, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

Non-CAS, Microcredential, Differential Validation

5.3 Higher Education and Training Programmes – Programme Validation

5.3.1 **Griffith College**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed reports presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of Item 5.3.1.1 for four years, item 5.3.1.2 for three years, item 5.3.1.3 for five years, all 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 PG25144, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Music Production with Composition, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits
PG25145, Certificate in Music Production and Audio Technology, Level 6, Minor Award, 60 Credits, *Differential Validation*

5.3.1.2 PG25137, Certificate in Strategic Collaboration and Coordination for MMC, Level 8, Special Purpose Award, 15 Credits, *Microcredential*

5.3.1.3 PG25123, Master of Science in Medical Device Technology and Business, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
PG25124, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Medical Device Technology and Business, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits

5.3.2 **Innopharma Labs Ltd**

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:

5.3.2.1 PG24986, Certificate in Operational Excellence, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 25 Credits, *Microcredential*

5.3.2.2 PG25015, Certificate in Supply Chain, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 20 Credits, *Microcredential*

5.3.2.3 PG25016, Certificate in Transversal Skills for a Digital Workplace, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 5 Credits, *Microcredential*

5.3.2.4 PG25017, Certificate in Information Technology and Industrial Automation, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 30 Credits, *Microcredential*

5.3.2.5 PG25018, Certificate in Data Visualisation and Analysis, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 25 Credits, *Microcredential*

5.3.3 **Chevron 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 PG25042, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Early Childhood Education and Care, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits
PG25043, Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education and Care, Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits

5.3.4 **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:

5.3.4.1 PG25139, Certificate in Teaching & Learning in Higher Education, Level 9, Special Purpose Award, 30 Credits
PG25140, Certificate in Technology Enabled Teaching & Learning, Level 9, Minor Award, 10 Credits.
Devolved Responsibility

5.3.5 **Royal College of Physicians of Ireland**

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:

5.3.5.1 PG24845, Certificate in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Level 9, Special Purpose Award, 30 Credits

5.3.6 **A Named Provider**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee agreed with the recommendation to REFUSE validation of one programme of a named provider.

The decision to refuse validation will be referred to the Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee (PAOC) for confirmation or referral back to the PAEC.

5.4 Devolution of Responsibility for Validation Sub-Processes
No Business

5.5 Validation of Research Degree Programmes
No Business

5.6 Apprenticeship Programmes

5.6.1 **Teagasc**

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:

5.6.1.1 PG24760, Higher Certificate in Sportsturf Management, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits

6. REVALIDATION

6.1 Application for Extension of Validation Period

6.1.1 **CCT College Dublin**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. CCT College Dublin requested a one-year extension of validation for the following programme:

6.1.1.1 PG23756, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

The rationale for this request was as follows:

The September meeting of the Academic Council of CCT College received a proposal for the College to seek an extension of validation from QQI based on the College wishing to:

a) allow time for completion of the wider strategic evaluation of business provision and needs
b) avail of the opportunity to experience post-pandemic delivery and assessment practice on the BA (Hons) in Business programme, and
c) employ a realistic timeframe in which to determine the continued demand for the programme.

The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programme above to August 2024.

6.1.2 **Clanwilliam Institute**

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

6.1.2.1 PG23991, Master of Science in Systemic Psychotherapy, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG23992, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Systemic Psychotherapy, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits *Exit Only Award*

The rationale for this request was as follows:

Clanwilliam indicated that they are planning to make significant changes to the programme structure and content to bring it in line with national and international best practice and in consideration of CORU standards for the accreditation of psychotherapy courses. This extension of the timeline for the programmatic review and re-validation of the programme would enable Clanwilliam to carry out a rigorous review and present a coherent proposal for a revised programme that will benefit all their learners. In this regard, Clanwilliam are seeking an additional resource to take on some of the tasks involved in the re-validation process. On a revised timeline, Clanwilliam would hope to be in a position to agree Terms of Reference during the first quarter of 2023 with a view to completion of the re-validation process, including issuing of the Certificate of Validation by June 2024.

The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programmes above to September 2023.

6.1.3 National College of Ireland

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

6.1.3.1 PG24255, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Recruitment Practice, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits, *Apprenticeship*

The rationale for this request was as follows:

The apprenticeship is a three-year programme; therefore, the validation period does not allow for a complete first cycle of the apprenticeship to be completed, prior to a QQI revalidation submission. Consequently, only data in respect of Years 1 and 2 would be available for review, with Award year being absent. An extension of one year would enable a review of a complete cycle of the apprenticeship.

The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programme above to September 2024.

6.2 Applications for Revalidation

6.2.1 Irish College of Humanities and Applied Sciences

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 PG25194, Master of Arts in Addiction Studies, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
PG25198, Master of Arts in Addiction Counselling, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
PG25199, Master of Arts in Addiction Recovery, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG25200, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Addiction Studies, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits *(Exit Award)*
PG25201, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Addiction Counselling, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits *(Exit Award)*

PG25202, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Addiction Recovery, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits *(Exit Award)*
PG25203, Certificate in Addiction Studies (Gambling), Level 9, Minor Award, 30 Credits

6.3 Request for Modification of Validated Programmes

6.3.1 **Saint Nicholas Montessori College Ireland**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

Saint Nicholas Montessori College Ireland requested modifications to the following validated programme relating to the re-wording of the module learning outcomes:

6.3.1.1 PG24318, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Psychology, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

The Committee APPROVED the modifications to the programme as requested by Saint Nicholas Montessori College Ireland.

6.3.2 **National College of Ireland**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

National College of Ireland requested modifications to the following validated programme relating to entry requirements:

6.3.2.1 PG24355, Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Computing, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits

The Committee APPROVED the modifications to the programme as requested by National College of Ireland.

6.3.3 **Carlow College, Saint Patrick's**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

Carlow College, St Patrick's requested modifications to the following validated programmes relating to the additional hours of elective tutorials being added to the programme and re-wording of module title on cross-programme modules, i.e modules which are included in several validated programmes:

6.3.3.1 PG23978, Bachelor of Art (Honours) in Arts and Humanities, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits
PG23979, Bachelor of Art in Arts and Humanities, Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits *(Exit Award)*
PG23970, Bachelor of Art in Arts and Humanities, Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits

The Committee APPROVED the modifications to the programmes as requested by Carlow College, St Patrick's.

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 LEGACY PROVIDERS (RE-ENGAGEMENT)

  9.1 Approval of Quality Assurance Procedures for Legacy Providers (Re-Engagement)

  9.1.1 **A Named Provider**

  The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

  The Committee REFUSED TO APPROVE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS (pending mandatory changes being made) the named provider's application for QA Approval. The named provider may submit revised procedures for approval within a six-month period of notification of this decision.

  9.1.2 **A Named Provider**

  The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

  The Committee REFUSED TO APPROVE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS (pending mandatory changes being made) the named provider's application for QA Approval. The named provider may submit revised procedures for approval within a six-month period of notification of this decision.

  9.1.3 **A Named Provider**

  The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

  The Committee REFUSED TO APPROVE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS (pending mandatory changes being made the named provider's application for QA Approval. The named provider may submit revised procedures for approval within a six-month period of notification of this decision.

  9.1.4 **A Named Provider**

  The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

  The Committee REFUSED TO APPROVE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS (pending mandatory changes being made) the named provider's application for QA Approval. The named provider may submit revised procedures for approval within a six-month period of notification of this decision.

  9.1.5 **A Named Provider**

  The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

  The Committee REFUSED TO APPROVE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS (pending mandatory changes being made) the named provider's application for QA Approval. The named provider may submit revised procedures for approval within a six-month period of notification of this decision.

The Committee REFUSED TO APPROVE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS (pending mandatory changes being made) the named provider's application to extend its current scope of provision to include collaborative provision as first provider.

9.1.6   **A Named Provider**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee REFUSED TO APPROVE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS (pending mandatory changes being made) the named provider's application for QA Approval. The named provider may submit revised procedures for approval within a six-month period of notification of this decision.

The Committee REFUSED TO APPROVE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS (pending mandatory changes being made) the named provider's application to extend its current scope of provision to include NFQ level 1.

9.1.7   **A Named Provider**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee REFUSED TO APPROVE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS (pending mandatory changes being made the named provider's application for QA Approval. The Named Provider may submit revised procedures for approval within a six-month period of notification of this decision.

9.1.8   **A Named Provider**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee REFUSED TO APPROVE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS (pending mandatory changes being made the named provider's application for QA Approval. The named provider may submit revised procedures for approval within a six-month period of notification of this decision.

9.1.9   **Moate Business College**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee APPROVED WITH A CONDITION the quality assurance procedures of Moate Business College.

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

9.1.10   **Blue Teapot Theatre Company**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee APPROVED WITH A CONDITION the quality assurance procedures of Blue Teapot Theatre Company.

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

9.1.11   **A Named Provider**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee REFUSED TO APPROVE the named provider's application for QA Approval.

The Committee REFUSED TO APPROVE the named provider's application to extend its current scope of provision to include collaborative provision as first provider.

The Committee NOTED that the decision to refuse QA Approval will be referred for consideration by the QQI Board.

9.1.12 A Named Provider

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee REFUSED TO APPROVE the named provider's application for QA Approval.

The Committee NOTED that the decision to refuse QA Approval will be referred for consideration by the QQI Board.

9.1.13 A Named Provider

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee REFUSED TO APPROVE the named provider's application for QA Approval.

The Committee NOTED that the decision to refuse QA Approval will be referred for consideration by the QQI Board.

9.1.14 FSPA Ltd

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee APPROVED the quality assurance procedures of FSPA Ltd.

9.1.15 Qualtec

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

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

The Committee NOTED that the executive now considers the conditions 2, 3 and 4 to be met.

9.1.16 IBEC CLG (The Irish Medtech Skillnet)

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS the quality assurance procedures of IBEC CLG (The Irish Medtech Skillnet).

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

9.1.17 An Cosán

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS the quality assurance procedures of An Cosán.

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

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

All 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. WITHDRAWAL OF PROVIDER QA APPROVAL

12.1 WITHDRAWAL OF PROVIDER QA APPROVAL

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. A named provider came through the Initial Access to Programme Validation process in September 2015, one of the first providers to do so. While very active in certification in the period 2016 to 2019, there have been no programmes run or learners certified through the named provider since then, therefore, it has been forced to cease running programmes that lead to QQI awards.

The Committee APPROVED the withdrawal of approval of the named provider's quality assurance and withdrawal of validation of the associated programmes. This decision will be sent to the Board for noting.

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

13. REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (PAOC)
No Business

14. SOLAS - UPDATE REPORT ON CRAFT APPRENTICESHIP REVALIDATION

14.1 SOLAS - Update Report on Craft Apprenticeship Revalidation

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. On 26 January 2023, SOLAS submitted the status report on the five apprenticeships. The Committee NOTED that SOLAS are due to have the panel site visit for the revalidation of the five apprenticeships in mid-February 2023.

The Committee NOTED the Update Report on Craft Apprenticeship Revalidation.