

34th Meeting of the Policies and Standards Committee

19th September 2022 from 10:30am to 1:30pm

QQI Offices, Denzille Lane, Dublin 2

Meeting Note

Present: Anne Walsh - Committee Chair
Achim Hopbach, International Expert
Bryan Maguire - QQI Executive Member
Jim Murray - QQI Executive Member
Damien Owens - National Expert
Alan Power – National Expert
Cassy Taylor, International Expert

In attendance: Peter Cullen – Head of Research and Innovation (QQI Key Executive for the PSC)
Ann Graves, QQI Secretary
Mary Grennan (Item 8.1)

Apologies: Hannah McGee – National Expert
Peter Rigney – National Expert
Niamh O'Reilly - Board Member

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the Committee.

1 Declaration of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest expressed by any member.

2 Minutes of previous meetings.

The minutes of the 33rd Meeting, 7 July 2022, agreed and signed by the chairperson.

3 Matters arising from the minutes of previous meetings.

There were no matters arising.

4 Standards – review and development - No Business

5 Strategic Approach

5.1 Chair's Report from the Board

The Chair had no report from the Board which is scheduled to meet on 23rd September.

6 PSC Reflection

6.1 Introduction – Cassy Taylor

The Chair welcomed Cassy Taylor as a new member of the Committee and invited her to introduce herself to the members of the PSC.

Cassy is currently Director of Qualifications Policy and Reform at Qualifications Wales, the Welsh qualifications regulator, leading on major review and reform projects including the creation of new suites of vocational qualifications. She has worked for the organisation since its establishment in 2015, prior to which she worked for the Welsh Government, leading on the regulation of General Qualifications and, latterly, the development of the Qualifications Wales Act (2015). Cassy also has extensive experience of working in further and higher education and for an awarding body in a range of quality assurance roles. She is currently also a school governor for a large secondary school and an infant school.

The members welcomed Cassy and look forward to working with her in the future.

7 Policy Stocktake and Roadmap

7.1 Policy Stocktake – Roadmap

The PSC noted the updates to the roadmap document. The committee further noted the importance of the document and said that it should continue as a working document and be presented to the PSC regularly as an update on the state of play.

8 Policy Development and Review

8.1 Draft Codes of Practice for IEM

- Second draft of Code of Practice for Provision of Programmes of Education and Training to International Learners: English Language Education (ELE)
- Second draft of Code of Practice for Provision of Programmes of Higher Education and Training to International Learners
- First draft of Statutory QA Guidelines for ELE
- Second draft of the IEM Policy on Authorisation

The QQI executive introduced the four documents and sought the Committee's approval. It was noted that the development of these drafts is an iterative process, and they will develop further over time. It was noted that the ELE documents are still works in progress and that there have been quite a few changes since the previous drafts seen by the Committee.

The PSC noted that the documents have been updated to take into consideration developments since the previous drafts were circulated, and feedback from relevant ELE stakeholders. Engagement had also taken place with English language centres in HEIs and feedback in general from providers has been positive and constructive.

The documents will remain works in progress until published for public consultation in October.

The PSC APPROVED the documents, with modifications, and agreed that they be published for consultation.

8.2 Approval of Minor Modifications - No business

8.3 Green Papers - No business

- 8.4 White Papers - No business**
- 8.5 Final Decision on Guidelines - No business**
- 8.6 Policy Advice - No business**
- 9 Procedures relevant to the PSC's functions - No business**
- 10 Notable new publications – No business**
- 11 Any Other Business**
- 11.1 Anne Walsh (Chair) valediction**

In her valediction as Chair and member of the PSC for five years, Anne Walsh thanked the members and QQI staff. She noted that this was a collaborative group and that they had made invaluable contributions to the work of QQI. She also said that the group were very engaged, and she valued the information and range of work completed during her time as Chair and complimented both the members and the QQI executive on the level of professionalism demonstrated.

She also recognised the effectiveness of the executive and PSC members in their operating through challenging times and their contribution to ensuring that this ensured continuity and minimal negative impact on learners.

The Chair wished the PSC the very best in their future work and also acknowledged that it was the final meeting for Niamh O'Reilly, Board and PSC Member who was not present. She thanked Niamh for her valuable contributions to the work of the PSC and asked that the executive passed on her gratitude and best wishes.

The members of the Committee and QQI executive thanked Anne Walsh for her expertise in chairing the PSC and her insight and wished her the best for the future.

11.2 Deputy Chair

The PSC noted that the Board appoints a Chair from its membership and that until such time as this appointment is made an interim Chair would be appointed from the membership of the PSC. Following discussion, it was agreed that Alan Power would Chair the next meeting of the committee and that this would be revisited again during that meeting.

Next meeting

21st November 2022.

Meeting ended.