

**Gordon Clark (Chair)**

Before returning to Ireland in November 2010, Mr Clark was responsible for eleven years, as a manager in the European Commission for the development of the EU's lifelong learning policy, including particularly the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

He was also responsible for the EU's overall framework for cooperation in education and training. This included chairing key EU level advisory and coordination committees in the field of qualifications and education and also membership of the boards of EU vocational training agencies. The earlier part of Mr Clark's career was in accountancy and financial management, initially in the private sector before joining the EU's audit and budgetary services.

**Dr Pdraig Walsh (Chief Executive)**

Dr Walsh has been the Chief Executive of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) since its establishment in 2012. Prior to that, he was Chief Executive of the agencies responsible for qualifications and quality assurance of further and higher education in Ireland that were amalgamated to form QQI in 2012. Having studied Chemical Engineering at University College Dublin and the University of Missouri (USA), he subsequently lectured in Bioprocess Engineering in Dublin City University (DCU) from 1984 to 2001. He was appointed as the first DCU Director of Quality in 2001 and left DCU in 2005 to become Chief Executive of the Irish Universities Quality Board.

He has served on the Board of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) since 2011 and was elected President of the association in 2013.



## Board Members



### **Dr Barbara Brittingham (international expert)**

Dr Brittingham is Director/President of the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE) of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) in Massachusetts.

Previously, she was founding dean of the College of Education at Zayed University in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; and previously worked in Turkey as a consultant on a World Bank project. She has spoken and written widely on topics including accreditation, assessment, evaluation, and teacher preparation.



### **Ms Una Buckley (learner representative)**

Ms Buckley left school at the age of 16 and entered full-time employment. Since returning to education as an adult learner, Ms Buckley has experience of community education, further education and third level through outreach.

Ms Buckley has served two years on the AONTAS Executive and is a member of the Adult Learners Forum of Ireland (ALFI) steering group. At international level she has been involved in the development of the International Adult Learners Charter and has represented adult learners at a number of conferences.



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### **Ms Mary Danagher**

Ms Danagher is the Managing Director of Irish Business Training Ltd (IBT).

She previously worked as an Underwriter with an internationally traded Reinsurance Company in London, Paris, New Jersey and Shannon. She studied at UL, Chartered Insurance Institute and Berlitz, London.



### **Ms Joanne Harmon**

Ms Harmon is the Education Manager with the Health and Safety Authority. She previously held the post of Communications Manager.

She has worked in communications, education and youth-development roles in the public, private and not-for-profit sector.

She is a graduate of UCD and holds post-graduate qualifications from DIT and PRII. She has also trained as an Executive Coach and is a certified mediator.



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### **Mr Oisín Hassan (USI nomination)**

Photo and biography to follow



### **Mr Thomas McDermott**

Mr McDermott is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin and holds postgraduate qualifications from University College Dublin and Dublin Institute of Technology. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

Subsequently he moved into the Higher Education sector where he held various teaching, examiner, administrative and management positions. He later moved into the financial services sector and was Vice President Learning and Development at Citigroup Corporate and Investment Bank in London.

He has served as a Non Executive Director and Treasurer of Network Stadium which is involved in the provision of social housing services, property development and urban regeneration. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy in the UK.

**Mr James Moore**

Mr Moore is an engineer by profession and established and operates an engineering company in Co Wexford. He is a current member of the Waterford / Wexford Education and Training Board.

Mr Moore is a member of Wexford County Council and serves on its Corporate Policy Group.

He is also a member of the NCCA Council as well as a member of their Audit sub committee. He is a former president of the National Parents Council (post primary) and served as the organizations Chief Executive.