

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
26/27 Denville Lane
Dublin 2
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White Papers on the Core Statutory QA Guidelines
Flexible and Distributed Learning
Towards a White Paper on Sector Specific Quality Assurance' (For Institutes of Technology)

IADT welcomes the publication by QQI of White Papers on the Core Statutory QA Guidelines, and on Flexible and Distributed Learning as well as the document; 'Towards a White Paper on Sector Specific Quality Assurance' (For Institutes of Technology). These are of course important and welcome document which will greatly aid the sector in providing our learners with the high and consistent standards in their education.

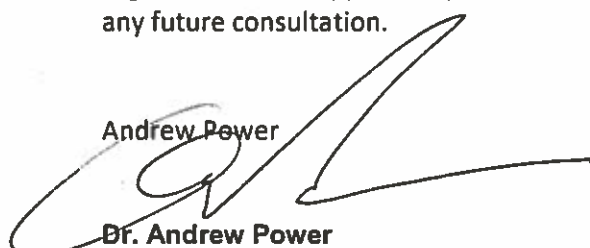
The first general point IADT wishes to make is that the need or desirability of separating the framework of quality assurance between 'core' and 'sector-specific' is not clear. Higher education would seem in all other areas seem to be trying to reduce divisions and segmentation as is clear from the work at national level bringing providers together regional clusters and research networks. Consideration might be given by the single national quality assurance body to the provision of a single unified approach which might assist in reinforcing your assertion on page eight that; 'all providers offering programmes leading to awards in the NQF to understand that they are linked to each other and to the national reputation of the qualifications system'. That being the case the argument for a single set of QA guidelines for all providers would seem more appropriate.

IADT welcomes the linking of resources to the provision of high quality and sustainable provision. However, your assertion on page fifteen that an institutes basic activities include 'a resource base which is sufficient to ensure sustainability' does not recognise the complexity of a system of fund over which an individual institution has little control. Of course a meaningful change in the funding of higher education is to be hoped for if unlikely to be realised.

In relation to the White Paper on Sector-specific QA guidelines for Institutes of Technology, IADT would question why, for example institutes of technology are required to ensure that 'award parchments refer to the level of the award in the European Qualifications Framework'. Is this a requirement for all HE providers?

In summary, IADT supports the various guidelines discussed but would like to see further discussion on the need for sector-specific guidelines, rather than a single comprehensive approach to HE. IADT is grateful for the opportunity to offer feedback and would welcome the opportunity to take part in any future consultation.

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