

PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Monday 25 August 2014 at 3pm

Incorporeal Meeting

Minutes of the second meeting of the QQI Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee on
Monday 25 August 2014 at 15:00.

PRESENT:

Dr Barbara Brittingham (Chairperson)
Ms Liz Carroll
Ms Maureen Conway
Ms Joanne Harmon
Ms Ann Mangan
Dr Diarmuid O'Callaghan

In attendance:

Ms Maria McLoughlin (Secretary)
Mr Walter Balfe (Key Executive)
Ms Róisín Sweeney (item 4)

APOLOGIES:

Dr Sarah Ingle
Ms Mary Danagher
Mr Joe O'Connor
Ms Karena Maguire
Mr John Mulcahy

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

No business (as this was a special meeting convened for one item only. Minutes of previous meeting and this meeting to be reviewed at next meeting)

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

N/A

3. NOTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING (FOR PUBLICATION ON THE QQI WEBSITE)

N/A

4. PAEC VALIDATION DECISION REFERRED FOR REVIEW

The meeting was held following a request by the Programme and Awards Executive Committee (PAEC) to uphold or refer back its decision of 11 June 2014 to refuse to validate the following programmes which had been submitted for validation by Institute of Business and Technology (IBAT College) in 14 March 2014:

- Master of Business Administration,
- Postgraduate Diploma in Business

- Certificate in Business Administration

The PAEC can refer decisions it makes on non-routine and complex matters to the PAOC. It did so in this case in the interests of fairness and transparency, given the unusually prolonged and multi-stage nature of this particular series of applications for validation. The PAEC was also conscious that the series had started under HETAC processes but had been completed by QQI.

The provider was informed personally and in writing that the decision was being referred by PAEC for review by PAOC, without prejudice to its right to subsequently appeal the PAEC decision should it so wish.

The members of the committee had been issued with the relevant documentation in advance of the meeting. The documents included the following:

- Briefing note supplied to external panel prior to most recent evaluation
- Validation Report of the expert panel
- Letter sent to Managing Director of IBAT by Roisin Sweeney, Manager, Programme Accreditation, informing of the PAEC decision not to validate

Following a wide-ranging discussion by all members there was consensus that the decision to refuse validation had been properly arrived at.

A motion to uphold the PAEC decision was proposed by Maureen Conway. The motion was seconded by Anne Mangan and was accepted unanimously.