

**QFI**Quality and Qualifications Ireland  
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí ÉireannNEWS  
UPDATE

## Update - April 2016

### **POLICY DEVELOPMENT:**

#### **[QFI Policy for the Cyclical Review of Higher Education Institutions](#)**

Following extensive consultation across the higher education sector, QFI has published a [Policy for Cyclical Review of Higher Education Institutions](#). The development of this policy commenced with the 2014 [Review of Reviews Report](#).

The policy sets out an approach to reviews that will be comprehensive, have multiple objectives (including effectiveness, accountability and enhancement) and have multiple dimensions (institution, system and thematic). Innovative features for reviews contained in the policy are: differentiation between cyclical and 'for cause' reviews; differentiation between initial and subsequent reviews; closer integration of continuous and periodic quality assurance activities; the use of data (metrics) as well as narrative sources of evidence for reviews and the development of a Quality Profile for institutions.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **[Quality in an Era of Diminishing Resources](#)**

In 2015, QFI commissioned an external expert to analyse the published statutory quality review reports of academic departments, schools and programmes in the Irish universities and institutes of technology, on its behalf. The findings of this research are now publicly available in the report [Quality in an Era of Diminishing Resources](#).

Although institutional quality review reports routinely highlight aspects of good practice, the analysis undertaken focussed specifically on commentary in the institutional reports on any perceived impact on the quality of teaching and learning as a consequence of the reduced funding available to the institutions, in the period 2008-15. The report presents the findings of an analysis of over 90 such reports. It points to matters such as the reduced spending on equipment and facilities and the knock-on effects reported by the institutions of the employment control framework

on the quality of the teaching and learning offering and environment.

## AWARDS DATA:

### [QQI launches its Infographics application – a visual representation of awards data](#)

[QQI Infographics](#) is a visual representation of the awards data that is already available in our QSearch facility. The application allows you access awards data that, through simple clicks, can easily be filtered on a variety of variables including year, gender, age-band, county, field of learning and award-type or level. The data set shows QQI awards from 2007 right up to the current year and includes both further and higher education and training awards.

The most recent functionality added to QQI Infographics has been the inclusion of a new link in QSearch Providers which makes it possible to view the data available for a provider.

More information on QQI Infographics can be found [here](#).

## QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES:

### [For information: Pilot programme to enable students engage in quality assurance and enhancement](#)

The National Student Engagement Programme is a collaborative initiative under development by the USI, the HEA and QQI. The aims of the National Student Engagement Programme are to strengthen the value placed on student engagement in higher education institutions in Ireland and to develop student capabilities to engage with quality assurance and enhancement initiatives. The pilot programme plans to develop tools and resources to support a common understanding of student engagement and to inform the future implementation of a comprehensive student training programme at a national level.

For information, details on a call for expressions of interest circulated to higher education institutions to participate in the National Student Engagement Programme Pilot for 2016/2017 are available [here](#). The call closed on 6 April 2016.