



**QFI**

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Quality and Qualifications Ireland  
Dearbhú Cálíochta agus Cálíochtaí Éireann

# 2012 Annual Report

Covering period 6 November  
to 31 December 2012

[www.QFI.ie](http://www.QFI.ie)



**QQI**

Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann  
Quality and Qualifications Ireland



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# Foreword from the Chair



Upon its establishment in November 2012, Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) took over the functions of the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland, the Higher Education and Training Awards Council, the Further Education and Training Awards Council, and the Irish Universities Quality Board. These four bodies have respectively and collectively laid strong foundations in this area since 2001. They developed and implemented the national framework of qualifications, initiated award standards, externally quality-assured educational providers and programmes and facilitated the access, transfer and progression of learners within the framework.

My vision is for the new QQI authority to build on these impressive foundations and establish a more integrated, coherent and relevant qualifications and quality assurance system which will meet the needs of all learners or potential learners, whether they are unemployed, employed, in training or in education in an even more effective way so we can be equipped to respond to post-recession Ireland and beyond in a state of readiness, with a well-educated, qualified and confident work force.

It is crucial that the new organisation ensures that all learners or potential learners have access to appropriate and timely information. It is equally important that learners are confident in the programmes of education and training recognised within the framework, and that they are given assurances that their qualifications are recognised within and outside the State for the purposes of employment or gaining access to further education and training opportunities.

In accordance with the Act, QQI will be independent in the performance of its functions as a qualifications and quality assurance agency. It will deliver a high-quality service to and have a strong relationship with providers in further and higher education and training, whether in the private or public sector. This is a vision that combines operational integrity and independence with a holistic and unified approach to working with providers to achieve the highest standards possible. It is a vision that I both share and endorse.

Gordon Clark

Chair

# Introduction from the Chief Executive



Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) was established in November 2012 by the amalgamation of the functions of the four bodies responsible for qualifications and quality assurance of further and higher education and training.

QQI is responsible for the maintenance, development and review of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) and makes awards across all 10 levels of the NFQ in the areas of further and higher education (outside of the self-awarding sector). QQI is also responsible for the external quality assurance of Irish further and higher education and training.

QQI is committed to the maintenance and further development of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) and to assuring and supporting improvement in providers' quality assurance systems. Over the coming years, we intend to continue the integration and further development of QQI's qualifications and quality assurance services.

QQI fully supports the Irish government's public service reform agenda and intends placing customer service at the core of everything that we do; to leading, organising and working in new ways; to maximising new and innovative service delivery channels; and to operating in a cost efficient way with a strong focus on implementation and delivery.

Dr Padraig Walsh

Chief Executive

Members of the  
Qualifications and  
Quality Assurance  
Authority of Ireland  
(hereafter and  
normally referred  
to as the Board  
of Quality and  
Qualifications  
Ireland)

Mr Gordon Clark, Chair

Dr Pdraig Walsh, Chief Executive

Dr. Barbara Brittingham

Ms Una Buckley

Dr. Margaret Cullen

Ms Mary Danagher

Dr Ann Louise Gilligan

Ms Joanne Harmon

Mr John Logue

Mr James Moore



## Establishment of QQI

The Qualifications and Quality Assurance Authority of Ireland was established by the Minister for Education and Skills, Mr. Ruairi Quinn, T.D. on 6th November, 2012 under the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act, 2012. On 7th November 2012, the Minister signed a ministerial order whereby the Authority was given the operational name Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI).

# QQI Functions

## **The general functions of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) are to:**

- promote, maintain, further develop and implement the National Framework of Qualifications
- advise the Minister for Education and Skills in relation to national policy on quality assurance and enhancement in education and training
- review and monitor the effectiveness of education and training providers' quality assurance procedures
- validate programmes of education and training, and review and monitor the validated programmes
- establish the standards of knowledge, skill or competence to be acquired by learners before an award can be made by QQI or by an education and training provider to which authority to make an award has been delegated
- make awards, delegate authority to make an award where it considers it appropriate and review and monitor the operation of the authority so delegated
- determine policies and criteria for access, transfer and progression in relation to learners, and monitor the implementation of procedures for access, transfer and progression in relation to learners by providers of education and training
- establish a code of practice for the provision of programmes of education and training to international learners
- authorise the use of the international education mark by a provider of education and training that complies with the code of practice
- establish, maintain and develop a database providing information on awards recognised within the National Framework of Qualifications, programmes of education and training which lead to awards recognised within the Framework and any other programmes QQI thinks appropriate
- establish and maintain the register of education and training programmes
- advise and consult with the Minister for Education and Skills, or any other Minister, on any matter which relates to its functions, at that Minister's request

- co-operate with international bodies on qualifications and quality assurance policies and their implementation and in particular to
  - » liaise with awarding bodies outside the State for the purposes of facilitating the recognition in the State of awards of those bodies, and
  - » facilitate the recognition outside the State of awards made in the State
- ensure arrangements for the protection of learners are in place where learners have begun but not completed a programme of education and training where a provider of education and training ceases to provide the programme before completion
- assist enrolled learners in finding alternative programmes of education and training where providers of education and training cease to provide a programme before completion
- collect any information relating to the performance of its functions it considers appropriate



# Award Recipients in the period 6 Nov to 31 Dec 2012, by award type

Award Type	Awards
Major	6,290
Special Purpose	2,255
Supplemental	134
Minor	28,688
Total	37,367

## Board Members' Expenses (for Nov/Dec 2012)

Dr. Barbara Brittingham	€828.98
Ms. Mary Danagher	€481.90
Ms. Joanne Harmon	€259.60
Mr. James Moore	€226.06

## CEO Salary

The salary paid to the CEO for the period 6 November to 31 December 2012 amounted to €21,503.00.

## Board Meetings 2012

- 3 December, 2012

All Board Members were present at the Board Meeting held on 3 December 2012.