



QQI

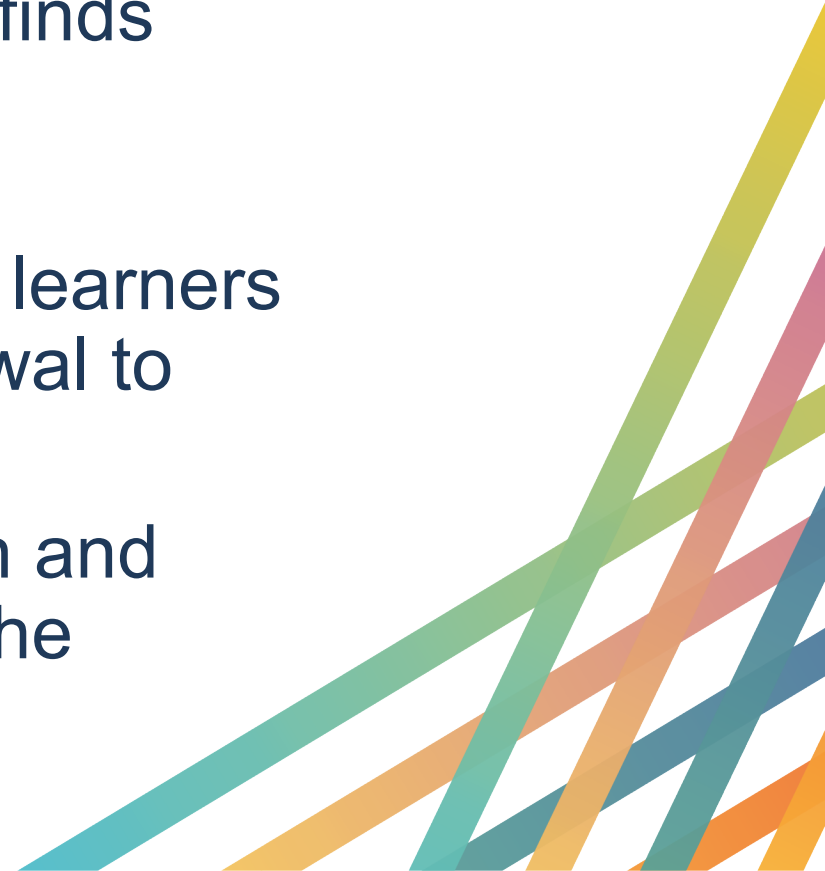
10 YEARS

The IEM in context

Dr Jim Murray
Director, Development Directorate, QQI

Background

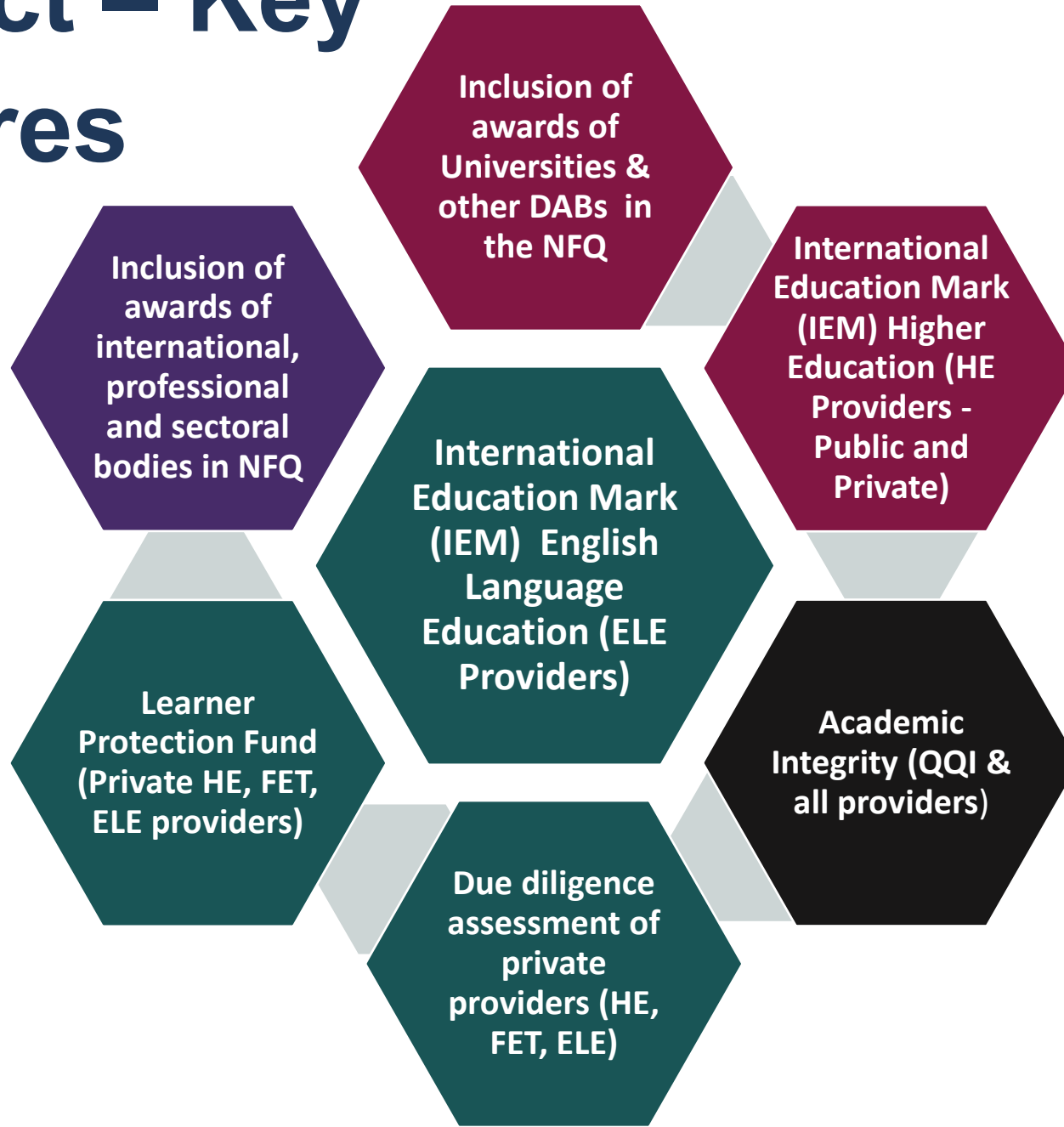
- Principle of **learner-centred education** embedded in Irish tertiary education and training system, and enshrined in a body of legislation dating back 25 years
- Commitment constant but conditions in which it finds expression much less stable
- Against a backdrop of ever present and ever accelerating change, the State's commitment to learners requires continuous attention and periodic renewal to remain current
- Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) (Amendment) Act 2019 a key part of the infrastructure of renewal



2019 Act and Learner Protection

- The 2019 Act provides a suite of measures that share a determined and practical concern to protect the interests of learners engaged with the Irish education and training system
 - Span qualifications, quality assurance and regulatory matters
 - Span interests that relate to the general welfare of learners, the quality and consistency of their learning experiences and the recognition of their learning achievements

2019 Act – Key Measures



QQI Role

- QQI responsible in law for implementing the provisions set out in 2019 Act
- Act gives QQI certain new statutory functions or strengthens some existing responsibilities
- QQI determined to work in partnership with all stakeholders in implementing these functions, based on their shared commitment to learner-centred education and the protection of learners' interests
- Interests of learners can only be served by QQI in collaboration with
 - learners themselves
 - providers of education and training
 - government departments and their agencies
 - all those of goodwill who want to help learners realise their potential and contribute to Irish society and its economy through the provision of safe learning opportunities and positive learning experiences

Learner Protection and ELE Providers: 3 Pillars

Due Diligence (DD)

- Providers will need to meet certain criteria concerning governance, finance, and compliance with the law
- Assures QQI of their capacity and capability to implement QA procedures and provide coherent programmes

International Education Mark (IEM)

- Will establish a national quality assurance system for ELE provision, linked to a statutory Code of Practice
- Will take an approach to the student experience appropriate to ELE, guided by current international and national best practice
- Will provide assurance that all ELE learners studying with providers who have been authorised to use the Mark will receive a quality experience

Learner Protection Fund (LPF)

- Concept of PEL is intended to ensure that learners will be able to complete their programmes, where their chosen provider ceases to trade or ceases to provide the programme
- Will facilitate programme completion, or refund of fees through the administration of a Learner Protection Fund under the stewardship of QQI

IEM Milestones and Indicative Timelines

Open stakeholder engagement on due diligence (DD), IEM and learner protection fund (LPF)

ELE Webinar: Roadmap to IEM

Q1 2022

Initial road test of DD regulations with select providers

Publish Handbook/ FAQs on DD

Gather data through survey from ELE providers to underpin planning/ development of LPF

Q2 2022

Road test draft ministerial DD regulations with experts

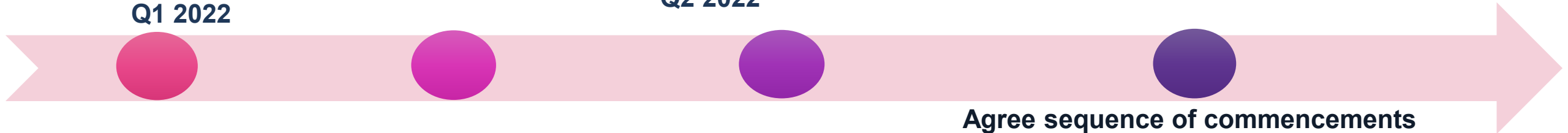
Q1 2022 forward

Agree sequence of commencements of amended legislation

Agree and develop QA approach for ELE and prepare first draft of ELE Code of Practice

Complete draft IEM policy and IEM authorisation process

Q2 2022



Confirm IEM governance
Confirm LPF governance
Agree PEL transition arrangements
Agree draft regulations with DFHERIS for PEL/ LPF
Q3/4 2022

Approval/ prescription of fees and charges for LPF and IEM
Q4 2022

Operationalise LPF in collaboration with DFHERIS and DPER
Q4 2022

Launch of IEM branding at QQI 10th Anniversary Conference
Public consultation on ELE Code of Practice and IEM policy and authorisation process
Creation of IEM Operational Plan
Q4 2022

Opening of DD process
Q4 2022

Open IEM applications process

Implement Learner Protection Fund

Q1 2023

