

## **PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (PAEC)**

**Thursday 14 July 2022 at 9:30am**

**via Microsoft Teams**

Note of the 61st meeting of the QQI Programmes and Awards Executive Committee held via Microsoft Teams, at 9:30am on **Thursday 14 July 2022**.

### **Present:**

Dr Pdraig Walsh (Chairperson)  
Ms Andrea Durnin  
Ms Barbara Kelly  
Dr Jim Murray  
Dr John O'Connor  
Ms Mary Grennan  
Ms Órla Barry

### **In attendance:**

Ms Therese Masterson  
Ms Janet Cawley (Secretary)  
Ms Alex Keys  
Mr Walter Balfe  
Ms Laura McNamee  
Ms Marie Mattimoe  
Ms Michelle Gallagher  
Dr Mary Meaney, Programmes and Awards Oversight  
Committee (PAOC) member

The Chairperson welcomed Mary Meaney (Deputy President of TU Dublin), a member of the Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee, as an observer at the meeting.

## **1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

The Chairperson enquired and confirmed that there were no conflicts of interest in relation to any of the items of business before the Committee.

## **2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 9 JUNE 2022**

**2.1** The Minutes of the PAEC Meeting held on 9 June 2022 were approved by the Committee.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING**

Any matters arising were covered within agenda items and were discussed during the meeting.

## **4. NOTE OF THE MEETING, REPORT FOR THE BOARD**

### **4.1 Note of Meeting of 9 June 2022**

The Committee APPROVED the Note of the PAEC Meeting of 9 June 2022 for publication on the QQI website.

## 4.2 Membership of the Programmes and Awards Executive Committee

The Committee NOTED the Membership of the Programmes and Awards Executive Committee.

The Committee NOTED that, at its meeting on 8 April 2022, the Board approved the appointment of **Andrea Durnin** (replacing Marie Gould) and **Órla Barry** (replacing Angela Lambkin) to the Committee. The Committee further NOTED that Andrea Durnin has been appointed for a period of three years and that Órla Barry has been appointed for a period of two years commencing 14 July 2022.

## 5. PROGRAMME VALIDATION APPLICATIONS

### 5.1 Further Education and Training (FET) Programmes

#### 5.1.1 Western Management Centre

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the programmes below for five years subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificates of Validation:

- 5.1.1.1 PG24779, Project Management, Level 6, Minor Award, 15 FET Credits
- PG24780, Supervisory Management, Level 6, Minor Award, 15 FET Credits
- PG24781, Team Leadership, Level 6, Minor Award, 15 FET Credits
- PG24782, Training Needs Identification & Design, Level 6, Minor Award, 15 FET Credits
- PG24783, Training Delivery & Evaluation, Level 6, Minor Award, 15 FET Credits
- PG24784, Instructing Manual Handling, Level 6, Minor Award, 10 FET Credits
- PG24785, Safety and Health at Work, Level 6, Minor Award, 15 FET Credits
- CAS Awards

#### 5.1.2 Louth and Meath Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the programmes below for five years subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificates of Validation:

- 5.1.2.1 PG24874, Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Utilising Robotics in Advanced Manufacturing, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 30 FET Credits
- PG24878, Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals and Robot Programming, Level 6, Minor Award, 15 FET Credits
- PG24877, Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals with Robot Integration, Level 6, Minor Award, 10 FET Credits
- PG24876, Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals and Application Identification, Level 6, Minor Award, 10 FET Credits
- PG24875, Certificate in Fundamentals of Robotics, Level 6, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits
- PG24879, Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals, Development and Future Trends, Level 6, Minor Award, 10 FET Credits
- Non-CAS, Microcredentials*

### 5.2 Further Education and Training (FET) Programmes – Differential Validation

#### 5.2.1 Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Stand-Up Paddle Boarding Instructional Skills

*Non-CAS, Microcredential, Differential Validation*

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programmes listed below were presented for validation to lead to the *Level 5 Special Purpose Award in Stand-Up Paddle Boarding Instructional Skills*. The programmes are all based on a curriculum validated for Kilkenny and Carlow ETB in December 2021. Each was screened to ensure that there was only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

**Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board**

PG24945, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Stand-Up Paddle Boarding Instructional Skills, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET Credits

**Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board**

PG24956, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Stand-Up Paddle Boarding Instructional Skills, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET Credits

**Kerry Education and Training Board**

PG24960, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Stand-Up Paddle Boarding Instructional Skills, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET Credits

**Cork Education and Training Board**

PG24952, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Stand-Up Paddle Boarding Instructional Skills, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET Credits

**Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board**

PG24935, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Stand-Up Paddle Boarding Instructional Skills, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET Credits

**5.2.2 Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Lowland Leadership**

*Non-CAS, Microcredential, Differential Validation*

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programmes listed below were presented for validation to lead to the *Level 5 Special Purpose Award in Lowland Leadership*. The programmes are all based on a curriculum validated for Kilkenny and Carlow ETB in December 2021. Each was screened to ensure that there is only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

**Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board**

PG24943, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Lowland Leadership, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET Credits

**Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board**

PG24958, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Lowland Leadership, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET Credits

**Kerry Education and Training Board**

PG24959, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Lowland Leadership, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET Credits

**Cork Education and Training Board**

PG24951, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Lowland Leadership, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET Credits

**Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board**

PG24934, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Lowland Leadership, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET Credits

**5.2.3 Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Environmental Sustainability in the Workplace**

*Non-CAS, Microcredential, Differential Validation*

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programmes listed below were presented for validation to lead to the *Level 5 Special Purpose Award in Environmental Sustainability in the Workplace*. The programmes are all based on a curriculum validated for Limerick and Clare ETB in February 2022. Each was screened to ensure that there is only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

**Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board**

PG24947, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Environmental Sustainability in the Workplace, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

**Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board**

PG24962, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Environmental Sustainability in the Workplace, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

**Kerry Education and Training Board**

PG24988, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Environmental Sustainability in the Workplace, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

**Donegal Education and Training Board**

PG24984, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Environmental Sustainability in the Workplace, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

**Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board**

PG25000, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Environmental Sustainability in the Workplace, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

**Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board**

PG24998, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Environmental Sustainability in the Workplace, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

**Louth and Meath Education and Training Board**

PG25006, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Environmental Sustainability in the Workplace, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

**Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board**

PG25004, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Environmental Sustainability in the Workplace, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

#### 5.2.4 **Level 4 Specific Purpose Certificate in Environmental Sustainability Awareness**

*Non-CAS, Microcredential, Differential Validation*

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programmes listed below were presented for validation to lead to the *Level 4 Special Purpose Award in Environmental Sustainability Awareness*. The programmes are all based on a curriculum validated for Limerick and Clare ETB in April 2022. Each was screened to ensure that there is only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

##### **Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board**

PG24997, Level 4 Specific Purpose Certificate in Environmental Sustainability Awareness, Level 4, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

##### **Donegal Education and Training Board**

PG24983, Level 4 Specific Purpose Certificate in Environmental Sustainability Awareness, Level 4, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

##### **Kerry Education and Training Board**

PG24989, Level 4 Specific Purpose Certificate in Environmental Sustainability Awareness, Level 4, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

##### **Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board**

PG25007, Level 4 Specific Purpose Certificate in Environmental Sustainability Awareness, Level 4, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

##### **Louth and Meath Education and Training Board**

PG25005, Level 4 Specific Purpose Certificate in Environmental Sustainability Awareness, Level 4, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

##### **Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board**

PG24990, Level 4 Specific Purpose Certificate in Environmental Sustainability Awareness, Level 4, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

##### **Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board**

PG25009, Level 4 Specific Purpose Certificate in Environmental Sustainability Awareness, Level 4, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

### 5.3 **Higher Education and Training Programmes – Programme Validation**

#### 5.3.1 **Dublin Business School**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the programmes below for five years subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificate of Validation:

- 5.3.1.1 PG24743 Master of Science in Health Psychology, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits  
PG24796 Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Health Psychology, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)

### 5.3.2 **A Named Provider**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee agreed with the recommendation to REFUSE validation of three programmes.

The decision to refuse validation will be referred to the Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee (PAOC) for confirmation or referral back to the PAEC.

### 5.3.3 **A Named Provider**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee agreed with the recommendation to REFUSE validation of one programme.

The decision to refuse validation will be referred to the Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee (PAOC) for confirmation or referral back to the PAEC.

### 5.3.4 **Hibernia College**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the programmes below for five years subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificate of Validation:

- 5.3.4.1 PG24863, Master of Arts in Inclusive and Special Education, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits  
PG24865, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Inclusive and Special Education, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits

### 5.3.5 **Galway Business School**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the programme below for three years subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificate of Validation:

- 5.3.5.1 PG24742, Certificate in Human Resource Management, Level 7, Minor Award, 10 Credits, *Microcredential*

## 5.4 **Validation of Research Degree Programmes**

No Business

## 5.5 **Apprenticeship Programmes**

No Business

## 6. REVALIDATION

### 6.1 **Application for Extension of Validation Period**

#### 6.1.1 **Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board (CMETB) requested a two-year extension of validation for the following programme:

6.1.1.1 PG23989, Advanced Certificate in Original Equipment Manufacturing, Level 6, Major Award, 240 FET Credits, *Apprenticeship*

The rationale for this request was that CMETB would like to complete one full programme iteration which would be completed at the end of this year. They would like to have sufficient time and data to evaluate and review the programme. They have already started the process earlier this year and expect to complete the programme review in the latter months of 2022.

The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programme above to April 2023.

## **6.2 Applications for Revalidation**

### **6.2.1 Kerry Education and Training Board**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED the revalidation of the following programme for five years, subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificate of Validation:

6.2.1.1 PG24651, Advanced Certificate in Culinary Arts, Level 6, Major Award, 240 FET Credits  
*Apprenticeship*

### **6.2.2 Dublin Business School**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED the revalidation of the following programmes for five years, subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificate of Validation:

6.2.2.1 PG24859 Master of Science in Financial Technology, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits  
PG24860 Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Financial Technology, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)  
PG24901 Certificate in Financial Technology, Level 9, Special Purpose Award, 25 Credits (*Exit Award*)

PG24858 Higher Diploma in Science in Financial Technology, Level 8, Major Award, 60 Credits

PG24857 Certificate in Fund Accounting, Level 7, Special Purpose Award, 30 Credits

6.2.2.2 PG24856 Diploma in Big Data for Business, Level 7, Special Purpose Award, 60 Credits

### **6.2.3 National College of Ireland**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED the revalidation of the following programmes for five years, subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificate of Validation:

6.2.3.1 PG24981, Master of Science in Finance, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits  
PG24982, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Finance, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits

6.2.3.2 PG24995 Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accounting and Finance, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits

PG24996 Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accounting and Finance, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

6.2.3.3 PG24991 Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business Management, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

PG24993 Diploma in Business Management, Level 7, Minor Award, 60 Credits (Exit Award)

PG24994 Certificate in Business Management, Level 6, Minor Award, 60 Credits (Exit Award)

### **6.3 Request for Modification of Validated Programmes**

No Business

## **7. FOLLOW-UP ON PAEC RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONDITIONS IN PANEL REPORTS**

### **7.1 Update on the follow-up of conditions of validation**

QQI is required to follow up on any special conditions of validation identified by an evaluation panel. The special conditions of validation that require follow-up are any conditions that have yet to be met at the time of the PAEC meeting at which the relevant application for validation is being considered, or those conditions that are ongoing in nature and will require explicit monitoring for the period for which the programme has been validated.

#### **7.1.1 National College of Ireland**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. At the PAEC meeting on 9 September 2021, the PAEC approved the validation of the following programme, with one condition:

PG24592, Certificate in P-Tech (Pathways in Technology), Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits

The Committee NOTED that the executive considers the condition of validation to be met and that no further follow-up is required.

### **7.2 Update on the follow-up of conditions of QA Approval**

No Business

## **8. QA FOR COLLABORATIVE AND TRANSNATIONAL PROVISION**

No Business

## **9. APPROVAL OF QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURES FOR LEGACY PROVIDERS (RE-ENGAGEMENT)**

### **9.1 A Named Provider**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee REFUSED TO APPROVE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS (pending mandatory changes being made) the named provider's application for QA Approval. The named provider may submit revised procedures for approval within a six-month period of notification of this decision.



## **9.2 A Named Provider**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee REFUSED TO APPROVE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS (pending mandatory changes being made) the named provider's application for QA Approval. The named provider may submit revised procedures for approval within a six-month period of notification of this decision.

The Committee REFUSED TO APPROVE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS (pending mandatory changes being made) the named provider's application to extend its current scope of provision to include blended learning.

## **9.3 A Named Provider**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee REFUSED TO APPROVE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS (pending mandatory changes being made) the named provider's application for QA Approval. The named provider may submit revised procedures for approval within a six-month period of notification of this decision.

## **9.4 Independent Colleges – Blended Learning QA Approval**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee APPROVED the quality assurance procedures for blended learning of Independent Colleges.

## **9.5 Chevron College – FET to HET QA Approval**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee APPROVED Chevron College's application to extend its current scope of provision from FET to HET QA approval.

## **10. ROUTINE STANDARDS ACTIVITIES UPDATE**

No Business

## **11. CHANGE OF STATUS OF LEGACY HET AND FET PROVIDERS**

### **11.1 Change of Status of Legacy HET and FET Providers**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. Nine providers were to have their QA Agreements rescinded and the validation of their programmes withdrawn due to voluntary decision by the providers not to reengage.

All providers listed in the documentation have been met virtually by QQI and have had the opportunity to agree a wind-down process to ensure that any programme in process and/or certification in process has been completed.

The Committee APPROVED the withdrawal of approval of the providers' quality assurance and withdrawal of validation of the associated programmes. The executive will send a registered letter of notification to each provider.

**12. REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (PAOC)**

No Business