

Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Quality and Qualifications Ireland

APPROVALS AND REVIEWS COMMITTEE

Notes of the fortieth meeting of the QQI Approvals and Reviews Committee, held **on Wednesday 06 December 2023 at 14:30 via Microsoft Teams.**

Participation:

Dr Sean Duignan (Chair)
Professor Fiona Farr
Ms Carol Hanney
Mr Billy Kelly
Dr Anna Murphy
Mr Ronan O'Loughlin
Mr Gerry O'Sullivan
Ms Laura Flynn
Mr Tony Pettit

In attendance:

Ms Caoimhe Marshall, Acting Secretary
Ms Marie Gould
Ms Orlaith O'Loughlin
Ms Alex Keys
Mrs Yvonne Agnew

Apologies:

Ms Gráinne Power, Secretary
Mr Bryan O'Mahony

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Committee approved the agenda for the meeting. There were no other conflicts of interest in relation to any of the items of business before the Committee.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 26 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Committee approved the Minutes of the ARC meeting held on 26 September 2023.

3. NOTES OF THE MEETING OF 26 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Committee approved the Notes of the ARC meeting held on 20 June 2023 which will be published on the QQI website.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

It was noted that the CINNTE report of University College Cork (UCC) contained some recommendations which would normally be considered beyond the scope of a quality assurance review, which could set precedent for future reports. The QQI Executive was asked to consider this in relation to the briefing of future review teams. It was noted that this matter arising would be raised at the next QQI Board meeting.

The committee agreed that it would be useful to hear about significant milestones in relation to the work of the QQI Board. The Chair informed members that the Board would have a strategy day in the new year and agreed to keep the committee updated on relevant developments from the QQI Board and Executive.

5. PUBLICATION OF THE FINDINGS OF CINNTE CYCLICAL REVIEW

Orlaith O'Loughlin and Marie Gould joined the meeting to present item 5.

5.1 Approval to publish the report of Institution of Art, Design and Technology, Dún Laoghaire (IADT).

The Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI Executive to publish the final report in respect of the CINNTE cyclical review of the Institution of Art, Design and Technology, Dún Laoghaire (IADT).

5.2 The Committee briefly discussed the definition of "Internationalisation" and noted that the broader definition used on page 62 of the report was welcome. It was also noted that students from different backgrounds may still have different interpretations of the term.

6. PROVIDER ACCESS TO INITIAL VALIDATION OF PROGRAMMES LEADING TO QQI AWARDS

Alex Keys and Yvonne Agnew joined the meeting to present items 6 and 7.

6.1. Refusal of Draft Quality Assurance Procedures

The Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive **to refuse to approve** the application from the Applicant Provider.

6.2. During a short discussion it was noted that the application was considered by the risk unit in QQI. It was noted that this was not included in the report as this level of detail would not normally be available to the public. The Committee acknowledged the robust and significant requirements for providers going through the application process.

7. PROVIDER ACCESS TO INITIAL VALIDATION OF PROGRAMMES LEADING TO QQI AWARDS: Saint John of God Community Services CLG (SJOGCS)

7.1. Approval of Draft Quality Assurance Procedures - Saint John of God Community Services CLG (SJOGCS)

The Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive **to approve with conditions of QA approval** the application from SJOGCS and approve its progression to Stage 2 of the initial access to validation process to allow it to now make an application for validation of its General Learning, Communication, Personal Safety, Rights, Decision Making programme(s) leading to QQI level 1 - 3 major and minor awards.

7.2. It was noted that, since the recommendation from the panel was made, that SJOGCS had satisfied the conditions.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair thanked the presenters and members of the committee for their attendance.

This concluded the business of the meeting.