Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Quality and Qualifications Ireland

APPROVALS AND REVIEWS COMMITTEE

Notes of the 43rd meeting of the QQI Approvals and Reviews Committee, held **on Wednesday the 18th of December 2024 online via Microsoft Teams.**

Participation:

Dr Sean Duignan (Chair)
Mr Tony Petit
Ms Carol Hanney
Dr Anna Murphy
Mr Ronan O'Loughlin
Ms Laura Flynn
Mr Gerry O'Sullivan

In attendance:

Ms Elaine Gannon (secretary)
Ms Alex Keys
Ms Yvonne Agnew
Ms Orlaith O'Loughlin
Ms Mairead Boland
Ms Mary Grennan
Ms Marie Gould
Mr Stephen Kelly

Apologies:
Prof. Fiona Farr

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 19th of September 2024**

   The Committee approved the Minutes of the ARC meeting held on the 19th of September 2024.

3. **NOTES OF THE MEETING OF 19th of September 2024**

   The Committee approved the Notes of the ARC meeting held on 19th of September 2024 which will be published on the QQI website.

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
   The Chair informed the committee that following on from previous discussions in relation to the TrustEd mark, Mary Grennan, Head of International Education at QQI has been invited to attend the meeting to update the committee on this matter.

5. **Provider access to initial validation of programmes leading to QQI awards: ICEP Europe**
   Alex Keys joined the meeting to present item 5 and 6.

   5.1 Approval of Draft Quality Assurance Procedures – ICEP Europe
   The Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive to approve the application from ICEP Europe based on the Quality and Capacity Evaluation Panel report.

6. **Provider access to initial validation of programmes leading to QQI awards**
   6.1 Refusal Pending Mandatory Changes of Draft Quality Assurance Procedures
   The Committee noted the recommendation of the QQI executive based on the recommendation of the Quality and Capacity Evaluation Panel report. Following discussion, the Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive to refuse to approve pending mandatory changes**,** the application from the Applicant Provider.

7. **CINNTE CYCLICAL REVIEW – Dublin Business School**
   Marie Gould and Stephen Kelly joined the meeting to present item 7

   7.1 Approval to Publish the Report of Dublin Business School

   The Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI Executive to publish the final report for the CINNTE cyclical review of Dublin Business School. It was noted that this is the first CINNTE Cyclical review completed of an independent/ private higher education institution.

8. **A Synthesis of the Education & Training Board Follow-Up Reports to the Inaugural QA Review Process.**

   8.1 Note the publication of the Synthesis of the Education and Training Board Follow-up Reports
   The committee noted the publication of the Synthesis of the Education and Training Board Follow—Up Reports (2024). OOL provided an overview of the inaugural review process.

9. **TrustEd Mark**
   Mary Grennan joined the meeting to present item 9.

   MG provided an overview of the legislative basis, context, timelines, review process, policies associated with the TrustEd mark including Due Diligence and the Learner Protection fund. MG's presentation will be circulated to committee members after the meeting. Further applications are expected from providers in the second application window as the Interim List of Eligible Programmes (ILEP) scheme is due to close in 2026.

   The Chair highlighted the role of the ARC in this process as the committee will be required to grant authorisation, grant authorisation with conditions or refuse authorisation to providers to use the TrustEd mark based on the assessment panel report. ROL stated that given the number of applications, it would be expected to have implications for the work of the committee. This was acknowledged by the committee and they noted that discussions are ongoing in QQI on how best to manage this including the recruitment of additional ARC members, however discussions are ongoing and the committee will be updated once finalised.

   GOS queried whether the Erasmus Charter of Higher Education was referenced, MG noted that this is referenced in the code of practice.

10. **Revised Terms of References for the Approvals and Reviews Committee**

    10.1 Revised Terms of Reference
    The revised Terms of Reference for the ARC committee were presented to the board on the 27th of September 2024 and were noted by the committee.

11: Any Other Business
   LF thanked the chair, committee members and those who joined to present agenda items for their work on the committee. She noted that 2025 will be a busy year for the ARC committee, due to the expected increase in the volume of work due to the TrustEd Mark but she will update the committee in the new year and how this will be managed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.