

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

**Tuesday 10 June 2025 at 9.30am**

**via Microsoft Teams**

Draft Note of the 79th meeting of the QQI Programmes and Awards Executive Committee held via Microsoft Teams, at 9.30am on **10 June 2025**.

**Present:**

Ms Cliona Curley (Chairperson)  
Ms Andrea Durnin  
Ms Barbara Kelly  
Dr Jim Murray  
Ms Marie Mattimoe  
Ms Roisín Morris-Drennan

**In attendance:**

Mr Paul Maguire  
Ms Alex Keys  
Ms Laura McNamee  
Ms Mairead Boland  
Ms Vivienne Keeley  
Ms Katherine Walsh  
Ms Yvonne Agnew (item 7.2)  
Mr Gediminas Buika

**Apologies:** Ms Órla Barry

**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 10 April 2025**

**2.1** The Minutes of the PAEC Meeting held on 10 April 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 10 April 2025**

The Committee APPROVED the Note of the PAEC Meeting of 13 February for publication on the QQI website.

#### 4.2 Report for the Board on the PAEC meeting of 13 February 2024

The Committee NOTED the Report for the Board on the PAEC Meeting of 13 February 2025.

### 5. PROGRAMME VALIDATION APPLICATIONS

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

##### 5.1.1 Dublinia DAC

The Committee NOTED the documentation, and the detailed reports 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 PG25981, National Tour Guiding, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 45 FET Credits
- PG26018, Regional Tour Guiding, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 30 FET Credits

##### 5.1.2 Kerry Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation, and the detailed reports presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the programme 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 PG26051, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Night Sky Guide, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET Credits

##### 5.1.3 Mayo Sligo & Leitrim Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation, and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the programme 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.

- 5.1.3.1 PG26316, Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Sustainability Leadership, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

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

- 5.2.1 The Committee NOTED the documentation. 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 Specific Purpose Certificate in Construction Skills for Energy Conservation**. The programmes are based on a curriculum *originally validated for Tipperary ETB in June 2022*. It was screened to ensure that there was only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

**Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Construction Skills for Energy Conservation**, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 30 FET Credits

**Certificate in External Wall Insulation**, Level 5, Minor Award, 10 FET credits

**Certificate in Retrofitting Skills**, Level 5, Minor Award, 10 FET credits

**Certificate in Airtightness and Vapour Control**, Level 5, Minor Award, 10 FET credits

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

- **City of Dublin Education and Training Board** PG26360, PG26361, PG26362, PG26363

- 5.2.2 The Committee NOTED the documentation. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programme listed below were presented for validation to lead to the **Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Immersive Technology**. The programme is based on a curriculum *originally validated for Mayo, Sligo & Leitrim ETB in April 2024*. It was screened to ensure that there is only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

**Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Immersive Technology**, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits, PDAS

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- **Cavan & Monaghan Education and Training Board** PG26432
- **Donegal Education and Training Board** PG26437

- 5.2.3 The Committee NOTED the documentation. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programme listed below were presented for validation to lead to **Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Wind Energy with Immersive Technologies**. The programmes are based on a curriculum *validated for Mayo Sligo & Leitrim ETB in April 2024*. Each was screened to ensure that there is only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

**Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Wind Energy with Immersive Technologies**, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits, PDAS

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- **Mayo Sligo & Leitrim Education and Training Board** PG26277

- 5.2.4 The Committee NOTED the documentation. 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 Specific Purpose Certificate in Lean Practice for Sustainable Business, Level 5**. The programmes are based on a curriculum *originally validated for Limerick & Clare ETB in July 2023*. It was screened to ensure that there is only variation from the curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

**Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Lean Practice for Sustainable Business, Level 5**, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET Credits

**Certificate in Lean Principles for Sustainable Business**, Level 5, Minor Award, 5 FET credits

**Certificate in Lean Tools for Sustainable Business**, Level 5, Minor Award, 10 FET credits

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

- **City of Dublin Education and Training Board** PG26452, PG26453, PG26454

- 5.2.5 The Committee NOTED the documentation. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programme listed below were presented for validation to lead to **Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Resource Efficiency for Sustainability**. The programme is based on a curriculum *originally validated for Mayo, Sligo & Leitrim ETB in December 2022 as Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Resource Efficiency for a Sustainable Workplace*. Each was screened to ensure that there is only variation from the curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

**Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Resource Efficiency for Sustainability**, Special Purpose Award (5 FET Credits)

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

- **City of Dublin Education and Training Board PG26455**

- 5.2.6 The Committee NOTED the documentation. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programme listed below were presented for validation to lead to the **Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Dementia Care and Support**. The programmes are based on a curriculum *originally validated for Limerick & Clare ETB in November 2024*. Each was screened to ensure that there is only variation from the curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

**Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Dementia Care and Support**, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET Credits, PDAS

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- **Cork Education and Training Board PG26415**
- **Kilkenny & Carlow Education and Training Board PG26419**
- **Tipperary Education and Training Board PG26417**
- **Longford & Westmeath Education and Training Board PG26401**
- **Cavan & Monaghan Education and Training Board PG26428**
- **Donegal Education and Training Board PG26438**

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

#### **5.3.1 Consortium of Centres of Nursing and Midwifery Education (CCNME)**

The Committee NOTED the documentation, and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the programme 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 PG25806, Certificate in Neonatal High Dependency & Special Care, Level 8, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits

#### **5.3.2 Holmes Institute Dublin**

The Committee NOTED the documentation, 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.

5.3.2.1 PG26135, Master of Science in Strategic Information Systems, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG26136, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Strategic Information Systems, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)

### 5.3.3 Griffith College

The Committee NOTED the documentation, 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.

5.3.3.1 PG26137, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Operations and Systems Management, Level 8, Major Award, 60 Credits

## 5.4 Devolution of Responsibility for Validation Sub-Processes

No Business

## 5.5 Validation of Research Degree Programmes

No Business

## 5.6 Apprenticeship Programmes

No Business

## 6. REVALIDATION

### 6.1 Application for Extension of Validation Period

#### 6.1.1 Dublin Business School

The Committee NOTED the documentation, Dublin Business School requested a one-year extension of validation for the following programmes:

6.1.1.1 PG24188, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Counselling and Psychotherapy, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits

PG24190, Higher Certificate in Arts in Applied Social Studies, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits [*Exit Award*]

PG24185, Higher Diploma in Arts in Counselling and Psychotherapy, Level 8, Major Award, 60 Credits

PG24189, Master of Arts in Psychotherapy, Level 9, Major Award, 90 ECTS Credits

DBS wished to extend the duration of the above programmes by one year. This extension would allow DBS the necessary time to navigate this situation. DBS plan to provide QQI with a status update regarding progression and anticipated submission timeline by July 31, 2025

The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programmes for one year.

### 6.1.2 National College of Ireland

The Committee NOTED the documentation. National College of Ireland requested a one-year extension of validation for the following programmes:

6.1.2.1 PG24368, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Early Childhood Education and Care, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits

PG24372, Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education and Care, Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits *[Exit Award]*

PG24373, Higher Certificate in Arts in Early Childhood Education and Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits *[Exit Award]*

PG24374, Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care, Level 6, Minor Award, 60 Credits *[Exit Award]*

PG24571, Certificate in Leadership, Governance and Change Management in Early Childhood Home Visiting, Level 7, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits

PG24572, Certificate in Curriculum and Pedagogical Practice for Early Childhood Home Visiting, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 20 Credits

The rationale for this request was as follows:

An extension request for one year was being sought for the above programmes prompted by recent leadership and organisational changes at NCI which have impacted on the programme review of these programmes.

The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programme for one year.

### 6.1.3 Dublin & Dun Laoghaire ETB

The Committee NOTED the documentation. Dublin & Dun Laoghaire ETB requested a one-year extension of validation for the following programmes:

6.1.3.1 PG24595, Advanced Certificate in Early Learning & Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits

PG24596, Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning & Care, Level 5, Major Award, 120 Credits

The rationale for this request was as follows:

On 14 May 2025, DDLETB wrote to QQI requesting an extension of validation for a year for the above programmes. The programmes are major awards at level 5 and 6. On 15 July 2021, the PAEC approved the validation of these programmes until August 2026. This is the first extension request for these programmes.

The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programmes for one year.

### 6.1.4 Accounting Technicians Ireland (ATI)

The Committee NOTED the documentation. The Open Training College requested a one-year extension of validation for the following programme:

6.1.4.1 PG24348, Advanced Certificate in Accounting, Level 6, Major Award, 180 Credits

The rationale for this request was as follows:

An extension request for one year was sought for the above programme: currently ATI are conducting ongoing revalidation process for the Advanced Certificate in Accounting, which is progressing alongside the validation of a new flexible programme structure. Given the scale of these developments, additional time is required to ensure a smooth transition for learners, training providers, and employers.

The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programmes for one year.

## **6.2 Applications for Revalidation**

*(\*new minor award or new exit-only award)*

### **6.2.1 Dublin Business School**

The Committee NOTED the documentation. 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:

6.2.1.1 PG26476, Certificate in Applied Care Skills, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 30 Credits

6.2.1.2 PG26281, Master of Science in Management Practice, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits  
PG26282, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Management Practice, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits *[Exit Award]*

6.2.1.3 PG26473, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Social Science, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits  
PG26482, Certificate in Social Science, Level 6, Minor Award, 60 Credits *[Exit Award]*

6.2.1.4 PG26474, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Film and Creative Media, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits  
PG26475, Bachelor of Arts in Film and Creative Media, Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits

6.2.1.5 PG26323, Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits  
PG26325, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Artificial Intelligence, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits

6.2.1.6 PG26477, Higher Diploma in Science in Digital Marketing, Level 8, Major Award, 60 Credits

6.2.1.7 PG26480, Higher Diploma in Science in Computing (Web and Cloud), Level 8, Major Award, 60 Credits  
PG26481, Certificate in Information Technology, Level 8, Minor Award, 15 Credits *[Exit Award]*

PG26478, Higher Diploma in Science in Data Analytics, Level 8, Major Award, 60 Credits  
PG26479, Certificate in Fundamentals of Data Analytics, Level 8, Minor Award, 15 Credits *[Exit Award]*

6.2.1.8 PG26319, Master of Science in Cybersecurity, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits  
PG26320, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Cybersecurity, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits *[Exit Award]*

6.2.1.9 PG26274, Master of Business Administration, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG26275, Postgraduate Diploma in Business, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits *[Exit Award]*

### 6.2.2 Independent College

The Committee NOTED the documentation. 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:

6.2.2.1 PG26459, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accounting and Finance, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

PG26458, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Marketing, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits  
PG26457, Certificate in Business Studies, Level 6, Minor Award, 60 Credits  
*[Exit Award]*

PG26456, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business Studies, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

### 6.2.3 Galway Business School

The Committee NOTED the documentation. 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:

6.2.3.1 PG26465, Bachelor of Business, Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits  
PG26466, Higher Certificate in Business, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits *[Exit Award]*  
PG26467, Certificate in Digital Marketing and Sales, Level 6, Minor Award, 20 Credits\*  
PG26468, Certificate in Sustainable Leadership, Level 7, Minor Award, 10 Credits\*  
PG26469, Certificate in Managing Digital Transformation, Level 7, Minor Award, 20 Credits\*

PG26447, Bachelor of Business (Honours) in International Business, Level 8, Major Award, 60 Credits

## 6.3 Application for Modification of Validated Programmes

### 6.3.1 Louth & Meath Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation. The modification request relates to an updated equipment list, a brief synopsis of the programme and module changes. The Committee APPROVED the modifications to the following programmes:

6.3.1.1 PG24874, Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Using Robotics in Advanced Manufacturing, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 30 Credits  
PG24875, Certificate in Fundamentals of Robotics, Level 6, Minor Award, 5 Credits  
PG24876, Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals and Application, Level 6, Minor Award, 10 Credits  
PG24877, Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals Integration, Level 6, Minor Award, 10 Credits

PG24878, Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals and Robot Programming, Level 6, Minor Award, 15 Credits  
PG24879, Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals, Development and Trends, Level 6, Minor Award, 10 Credits

### **6.3.2 Elevation Training**

The Committee NOTED the documentation. Elevation Training submitted a modification request for the programme below. relates to an updated equipment list, brief synopsis of programme and module changes The Committee APPROVED the modifications to the following programme:

The current delivery of the modules is assessment heavy and includes some repetition. Elevation Training felt that better use could be made of the learners' time by incorporating new elements to the current list of learning outcomes, Modifications were made to the MIMLO's, programme title and module delivery. Once the new Healthcare standards are published in Q1 2026, all providers offering programmes in this area will be required to submit updated programmes for validation. The timeline will be communicated to Providers in advance of publication. Elevation Training also intend to assign a new name to the programme.

6.3.2.1 PG17273, Community Health Services, Level 5, Major Award, 120 Credits

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

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

No business

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

As part of its internal quality assurance procedures, QQI is required to follow up on any "Conditions of QA Approval" imposed by the Programme and Awards Executive Committee (PAEC).

#### **7.2.1 St Joseph's Training Services**

The Committee NOTED the documentation.

At its meeting on 07 February 2024, the PAEC approved the QA procedures of Ability West t/a St. Joseph's Training Services with two Conditions of QA Approval. At its meeting on 25 April 2024, the PAEC noted that the Executive considered the condition of QA approval number 1 to be met. On 31 January 2025, St. Joseph's Training Services confirmed that it had addressed condition number 2.

The Committee NOTED that the executive is satisfied that the conditions of QA Approval have been appropriately addressed by the provider and that no further follow-up is required.

#### **7.2.1 Qualtec**

The Committee NOTED the documentation.

At its meeting on 25 April 2024, the PAEC approved the blended learning quality assurance procedures of Qualtec with 6 Conditions of QA Approval:

At its meeting on 25 April 2024, the PAEC noted that the Executive considered the conditions of QA approval numbers 1,2,3,4 and 6 to be met. On 24 February 2025, Qualtec confirmed that it had addressed condition number 5. The Report and accompanying documentation attached outlines what actions have been taken by the provider in respect of this condition.

The Committed NOTED that the executive is satisfied that the conditions of QA Approval have been appropriately addressed by the provider and that no further follow-up is required.

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

No Business

**9. APPROVAL OF QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURES FOR EXTENSION OF SCOPE OF PROVISION**

**Holmes Institute Dublin**

The Committee NOTED the documentation.

The Committee APPROVED Holmes Institute application to extend its current scope of provision to include major awards at Level 9 on the NFQ.

**10. ROUTINE STANDARDS ACTIVITIES UPDATE**

No Business

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

No Business

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

No business.

**13. INTENTION TO WITHDRAW VALIDATION OF PROGRAMMES**

No business

**14. WITHDRAWAL OF VALIDATION OF PROGRAMMES/WITHDRAWAL OF PROVIDER QA APPROVAL**

No business

**15. UPDATE ON LEARNER COMPLAINTS RELATING TO PROVIDER OF PROGRAMMES LEADING TO QQI AWARDS**

**15.1 [PROVIDER] – Update on Complaint**

The Committee noted the update on complaint regarding a provider of programmes leading to QQI awards.

From 22 March onwards, there was a series of learner complaints with regard to the progression pathway from a Higher Diploma (HDip) programme. These learners had been advised by the provider that they were not eligible for direct entry into an MSc programme, despite this being stated in their offer letters. The core problem was an apparent discrepancy in clinical placement hours—on completion of the HDip programme, students would have completed only 25 hours of supervised practice placement. The entry requirements for the MSc programme stipulated that learners must demonstrate completion of 100 hours of supervised placement hours.

QQI has engaged proactively with the professional body that accredits the MSc programme. Over a series of meetings during the course of May, QQI and the professional body developed a joint agreement and statement to inform learners that:

- the pathway from the HDip to master's programme was a valid progression pathway;
- the professional body, for professional accreditation purposes, would continue to recognise this pathway; and
- existing professional body student memberships held by current HDip learners remained valid.

QQI is now awaiting a formal report from the college detailing the incident, corrective actions, and a formal request to modify the entry requirements to the MSc programme to explicitly reference the validated RPL route.

## **16. SOLAS - UPDATE REPORT ON APPRENTICESHIP**

### **16.1 SOLAS – Update Report on Apprenticeship**

The Committee NOTED the Update Report on Apprenticeship.

The Committee discussed the report which included an update on recent engagement with SOLAS. The committee heard about the ongoing engagement with SOLAS regarding SOLAS's revalidated craft apprenticeship programmes. Implementation has been delayed due to internal challenges, including SME availability and payment system issues.

The committee emphasised the need for stronger collaboration between SOLAS, ETBs, and higher education institutions, and flagged the importance of Department of Education involvement. A roadmap for an integration project is under review, and further monitoring and potential reviews are anticipated to ensure quality and compliance across the apprenticeship system.

## **17. UPDATE REPORT ON PROGRAMME VALIDATION FOLLOWING REENGAGEMENT**

### **17.1 Update Report on Programme Validation following Reengagement**

Following a review of reengagement data, it was found that 65 providers—primarily in the further education and training (FET) sector—had reengaged with QQI between 2019 and 2024 but had not submitted any new programme validations. The QA Division is currently engaging with these providers, who have been advised that they should submit an application for validation of a programme before the end of December 2025. They are required to notify QQI of the programme title and intended date of submission over the coming weeks.