

Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Quality and Qualifications Ireland

APPROVALS AND REVIEWS COMMITTEE

Notes of the 45th meeting of the QQI Approvals and Reviews Committee, held **on Friday the 12th of September 2025 online via Microsoft Teams.**

Participation:

Dr Sean Duignan (Chair)
Prof Fiona Farr
Ms Carol Hanney
Dr Anna Murphy
Prof Maria Hinfelaar
Ms Laura Flynn
Mr Gerry O'Sullivan
Mr Ronan O'Loughlin

In attendance:

Ms Karla Keogan (Acting secretary)
Ms Órla Barry
Ms Naomi Oldenburg
Ms Yvonne Agnew
Ms Mairead Boland
Ms Mary Grennan
Ms Mary Sheridan

Apologies:

Mr Tony Petit and Dr Elaine Boyd

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 31st of March 2025

The Committee approved the minutes of the ARC meeting held on the 31st of March 2025.

3: NOTES OF THE MEETING OF 31st of March 2025

The Committee approved the notes of the ARC meeting held on 31st of March 2025 which will be published on the QQI website.

4: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Chair informed the committee that following on from the previous discussion in relation to the organisation of the committee for TrustEd Ireland and the International Education Mark, Prof Fiona Farr has agreed to serve as Vice Chair for the Approvals and Reviews Committee.

5: APPLICATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LISTED AWARDING BODY AND INCLUSION OF AWARDS IN THE NFQ: ST PATRICKS PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY

Órla Barry and Naomi Oldenburg joined the meeting to present item 5.

5.1 Approval to publish the report of the application to be established as a Listed Awarding Body and have awards included in the Framework: St Patricks College Maynooth (SPCM) as St Patricks Pontifical University (SPPU)

ÓB provided a detailed background of the legislative basis, application process and next stages of the Listed Awarding Body process.

The Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive to approve to publish the report of the application to be established as a Listed Awarding Body and have awards included in the Framework from St Patricks College Maynooth (SPCM) as St Patricks Pontifical University (SPPU), noting they have until March 2026 to address mandatory changes detailed in the Independent Evaluation Report.

6: PROVIDER ACCESS TO INITIAL VALIDATION OF PROGRAMMES LEADING TO QQI AWARDS: APPLICANT PROVIDER 1.

Yvonne Agnew and Mairead Boland joined the meeting to present item 6, 7, 8 and 9.

6.1 Refusal Pending Mandatory Changes of Draft Quality Assurance Procedures – APPLICANT PROVIDER 1.

The Committee noted the recommendation of the QQI executive based on the recommendation of the Quality and Capacity Evaluation Panel report. The Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive to refuse to approve pending mandatory changes, the application from Applicant Provider 1.

7: PROVIDER ACCESS TO INITIAL VALIDATION OF PROGRAMMES LEADING TO QQI AWARDS: APPLICANT PROVIDER 2.

7.1 Refusal Pending Mandatory Changes of Draft Quality Assurance Procedures – APPLICANT PROVIDER 2.

The Committee noted the recommendation of the QQI executive based on the recommendation of the Quality and Capacity Evaluation Panel report. The Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive to refuse to approve pending mandatory changes, the application from Applicant Provider 2.

8: PROVIDER ACCESS TO INITIAL VALIDATION OF PROGRAMMES LEADING TO QQI AWARDS: APPLICANT PROVIDER 3.

8.1 Refusal Pending Mandatory Changes of Draft Quality Assurance Procedures – APPLICANT PROVIDER 3.

The Committee noted the recommendation of the QQI executive based on the recommendation of the Quality and Capacity Evaluation Panel report. The Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive to refuse to approve pending mandatory changes, the application from Applicant Provider 3.

9: FOCUSED REVIEW UNDER SECTION 34(1)(B) OF THE QUALITY AND QUALIFICATIONS ACT 2012: CITY EDUCATION GROUP

9.1 Approval to publish the final report of the focused review of City Education Group (CEG) under Section 34 (1)(b) of the 2012 Act.

The Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive to approve the review outcomes of the focused review of City Education Group (CEG) under Section 34 (1)(b) of the 2012 Act., including:

- eleven recommendations to be implemented as a matter of urgency (based on ten mandatory changes proposed by the review team as well as one additional such recommendation proposed by the QQI executive), and three additional recommendations, based on three considerations proposed by the review team.
- a proposed plan for the enhanced monitoring of CEG's implementation of its RPL procedures, incorporated within the review report.

The Committee also accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive to approve to publish the final report, terms of reference and provider response of the focused review of City Education Group (CEG) under Section 34 (1)(b) of the 2012 Act.

10: TRUSTED IRELAND

Mary Grennan and Mary Sheridan joined the meeting to present item 10.

MG provided an overview of the timelines and requirements of the committee in relation to the TrustEd process. MG's presentation and links to the report templates will be circulated to the committee members after the meeting. 30 HE providers and 17 ELE providers submitted applications in window 1. It is expected that HE reports will be submitted to ARC in October/November and ELE reports will be submitted to ARC in November/December. Window 2 will open on the 13th of October; this will be a 24-week window.

MS provided an overview of the legislative basis to the Due Diligence process. MS noted that only the executive summary will be presented to the ARC.

The committee agreed to hold an initial meeting with a sample of reports for HE and ELE, to scope the work required from the ARC. The secretary will circulate some potential dates for this meeting. MG to notify the committee once a small sample of reports are available from both sectors.

16: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

As there was no other business, this concluded the business of the meeting.

Chair: _____

Date: _____