

PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (PAEC)

Thursday 17 July 2025 at 9.30am

via Microsoft Teams

Minutes of the 80th meeting of the QQI Programmes and Awards Executive Committee held via Microsoft Teams, at 9.30am on **17 July 2025**.

Present:

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

In attendance:

Mr Paul Maguire
Ms Alex Keys
Ms Katherine Walsh
Ms Laura McNamee
Ms Mairéad Boland

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 June 2025

2.1 The Minutes of the PAEC Meeting held on 10 June 2025 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 June 2025

The Committee APPROVED the Note of the PAEC Meeting of 10 June 2025, for publication on the QQI website.

4.2 Report for the Board on the PAEC meeting of 10 June 2025

The Committee NOTED the Report for the Board on the PAEC Meeting of 10 June 2025.

5. PROGRAMME VALIDATION APPLICATIONS

5.1 Further Education and Training (FET) Programmes

5.1.1 Shorcontrol Safety

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated, 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 Certificates of Validation.

5.1.1.1 PG26223, Training Delivery and Evaluation, Level 6, Minor Award, 15 FET credits *CAS Award*

5.1.2 Blue Teapot Theatre Company

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated, 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.

5.1.2.1 PG26315, Introduction to Performing Arts, Level 2, Major Award, 30 FET credits *CAS Award*

5.1.2.2 PG26389, Foundation Performing Arts Skills, Level 3, Major Award, 40 FET credits *CAS Award*

5.1.3 St John of God Community Services CLG

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated 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 Certificate of Validation.

5.1.3.1 PG26266, Community Education, Level 1, Major Award, 20 FET credits *CAS Award*

5.1.3.2 PG26253, Community Education 2, Level 2, Major Award, 30 FET credits *CAS Award*

5.1.4 Bord Iascaigh Mhara

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated 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.

5.1.4.1 PG26350, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Fishmonger Skills, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET Credits PDAS

5.1.5 Longford & Westmeath Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated 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.

5.1.5.1 PG26299, Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Corporate Sustainability Reporting, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits PDAS

5.1.6 Cavan & Monaghan Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated 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.

5.1.6.1 PG26294, Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Fundamentals of Feedback in the Workplace, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 10 FET Credits PDAS

5.1.7 Louth & Meath Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated 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 Certificate of Validation.

5.1.7.1 PG26236, Level 3 Specific Purpose Certificate in Introduction to STEAM, Level 3, Special Purpose Award, 30 FET Credits

PG26250, Level 3 Specific Purpose Certificate in STEAM Fundamentals, Level 3, Special Purpose Award, 10 FET Credits PDAS

5.1.8 Tipperary Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated 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.

5.1.8.1 PG26300, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Enhancing Productivity with AI, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

5.1.9 Donegal Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated 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.

5.1.9.1 PG26333, Level 4 Specific Purpose Certificate in Introduction to Artificial Intelligence, Level 4, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits PDAS

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

- 5.2.1 The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programme 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*. It was screened to ensure that there was only variation from that 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 programme:

- **Mayo, Sligo & Leitrim Education and Training Board** PG26460

- 5.2.2 The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. 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 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in The Circular Economy in the Workplace**. The programme is based on a curriculum *originally validated for Dublin and Dun Laoghaire ETB in April 2023*. It was screened to ensure that there is only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in The Circular Economy in the Workplace, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits, PDAS

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

- **City of Dublin Education and Training Board** PG26485

- 5.2.3 The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. 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 Immersive Technology**. The programmes are based on a curriculum *validated for Cavan & Monaghan ETB in April 2023*. Each 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 programme:

- **City of Dublin Education and Training Board** PG26486

- 5.2.4 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 3 Specific Purpose Certificate in Online Awareness and Responsibility**. The programmes are based on a curriculum *originally validated for Cavan & Monaghan ETB in April 2023*. It was screened to ensure that there is only variation from the curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 3 Specific Purpose Certificate in Online Awareness and Responsibility, Level 3, Special Purpose Award, 10 FET Credits, PDAS

Certificate in Essential Online Media Literacy, Level 3, Minor Award, 5 FET credits, *PDAS*
Certificate in Essential Online Financial Security, Level 3, Minor Award, 5 FET credits, *PDAS*

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- **Kilkenny & Carlow Education and Training Board** PG26488, PG26489, PG26490

5.3 Higher Education and Training Programmes – Programme Validation

5.3.1 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.

PG26340, Master of Arts in Education, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG26342, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Education, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)

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 ICD Business School

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. ICD Business School requested a one-year extension of validation for the following programmes:

PG24082, Master of Arts in Accounting and Finance, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG24081, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accounting and Finance, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

PG24144, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business Studies, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits

6.1.1.2 PG24376, Postgraduate Diploma in Business in Accounting and Financial Services, Level 9, Major Award, 70 Credits

A one-year extension is being requested for the above programmes due to significant institutional developments in 2024, including curriculum adaptations driven by advancements in artificial intelligence, strategic collaboration with ACCA, and the launch of a pioneering Masters programme. These initiatives have required extensive programme reviews and alignment with national education and financial services strategies. While revalidation is nearing completion, unforeseen circumstances may delay final submission, prompting the need for additional time.

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

6.1.2 Irish College of Humanities and Applied Sciences Limited

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. ICHAS requested a one-year extension of validation for the following programmes:

- 6.1.2.1 PG24459, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Counselling and Psychotherapy, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits
- PG24455, Certificate in Foundational Skills & Competence in Counselling and Psychotherapy, Level 6, Minor Award, 20 Credits
- PG24456, Certificate in Cultural Competence for Professional Development, Level 6, Minor Award, 10 Credits
- PG24457, Certificate in Supporting Positive Parenting, Level 8, Minor Award, 15 Credits
- PG24469, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Counselling and Psychotherapy with Addiction Studies Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits
- PG24470, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Counselling and Psychotherapy with Youth Studies Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits
- PG24471, Bachelor of Arts in Psychosocial Studies Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits (*Exit Award*)
- PG24472, Bachelor of Arts in Counselling and Psychotherapy Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits (*Exit Award*)
- PG24473, Higher Certificate in Arts in Counselling and Psychotherapy, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits (*Exit Award*)
- PG24474, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Psychosocial Studies Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits (*Exit Award*)

- PG24547, Master of Arts in in Counselling and Psychotherapy, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
- PG24548, Master of Arts in Counselling and Psychotherapy (Person Centred Modalities), Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
- PG24552, Master of Arts in Counselling and Psychotherapy (Integrative Modalities), Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
- PG24553, Master of Arts in Counselling and Psychotherapy (Family Therapy), Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
- PG24554, Master of Arts in Counselling and Psychotherapy (Psychodynamic Modalities), Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
- PG24555, Master of Arts in Counselling and Psychotherapy (Cognitive Behavioural Modalities), Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
- PG24556, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Counselling and Psychotherapy (Person Centred Modalities), Level 9, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)
- PG24557, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Counselling and Psychotherapy (Integrative Modalities), Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)
- PG24558, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Counselling and Psychotherapy (Family Therapy), Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)
- PG24559, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Counselling and Psychotherapy (Psychodynamic Modalities), Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)
- PG24560, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Counselling and Psychotherapy (Cognitive Behavioural Modalities), Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)
- PG24561, Master of Arts in Psychosocial Studies, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits (*Exit Award*)
- PG24562, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Psychosocial Studies, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)

PG24563, Certificate in Technologically Facilitated Therapeutic Engagement, Level 9, Minor Award, 20 Credits

PG24531, Master of Arts in Clinical Supervision in Professional Practice, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG24532, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Clinical Supervision in Professional Practice, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)

PG24540 Certificate in Clinical Supervision in Professional Practice, Level 9, Minor Award, 30 Credits

PG24542 Master of Arts in Childhood and Adolescent Studies, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG24543 Master of Arts in Childhood Studies, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG24544 Master of Arts in Adolescent Studies, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG24545 Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Childhood Studies, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits

PG24546 Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Adolescent Studies, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits

The rationale for this request was as follows:

An extension request for one year is being sought for the above programmes to align the programme reviews and be compliant with the impending publication of the CORU Standards of Proficiency for both Counselling & Psychotherapy as well as the Training & Education Standards. The extension of one year is being sought.

The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programme 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 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:

6.2.1.1 PG26317, Master of Arts in Addiction Studies, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG26318, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Addiction Studies, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award [For Approval]*)

6.2.1.2 PG26321, Master of Science in Financial Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits PG26322, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Financial Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee raised several questions which required the executive to liaise with the provider for clarity. The provider would be advised to apply for an extension of one year until these questions have been resolved.

6.2.1.3 PG26517, Bachelor of Business, Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits PG26518, Higher Certificate in Business, Major Award, Level 6, 120 Credits (*Exit Award*)

6.2.2 Griffith College

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:

6.2.2.1 PG26470, Master of Arts in Education, Learning and Development, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG26471, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Education, Learning and Development, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits

PG26472, Certificate in Education, Learning and Development, Level 9, Minor Award, 20 Credits

6.2.2.2 PG26498, Bachelor of Arts in Bar Management, Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits

6.2.2.3 PG26496, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Pharmaceutical Business Operations, Level 8, Major Award, 60 Credits

6.2.2.4 PG26511, Master of Science in Big Data Management and Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG26512, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Big Data Management and Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits

PG26507, MSc of Science in Computing, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG26508, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Computing, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits

PG26509, Master of Science in Cybersecurity, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG26510, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Cybersecurity, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits

6.2.3 CCT College Dublin

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 PG26420, Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Computing and Information Technology, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits

PG26421, Bachelor of Science in Computing and Information Technology, Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits (*Exit Award*)

PG26422, Higher Certificate in Science in Computing and Information Technology, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits (*Exit Award*)

6.2.3.2 PG26462, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

6.2.4 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:

6.2.4.1 PG26516, Certificate in Educational Practice for P-Tech, Level 9, Special Purpose Award, 20 Credits

PG24969, Certificate in P-TECH (Future Pathways Programme), Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits

6.2.5 The Open Training College

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:

6.2.5.1 PG26500, Bachelor of Arts in Social Care, Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits
PG26515, Higher Certificate in Arts in Social Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits

6.3 Application 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

No business

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 EXTENSION OF SCOPE OF PROVISION

No Business

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. SOLAS - UPDATE REPORT ON APPRENTICESHIP

15.1 SOLAS – Update Report on Apprenticeship

The committee noted a previous application for extension of validation of three apprenticeship programmes. Validation of these programmes could not be extended. The Chairperson and members discussed the need for a more structured engagement with SOLAS.

A meeting with both SOLAS and the relevant Department unit was proposed to address concerns and determine a path forward.

16. EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARDS IRELAND (ETBI) WORKING GROUP ON MODULE DEVELOPMENT REPORT

16.1 ETBI Working Group on Module Development Report

The Committee noted the report from the ETBI Working Group on Module Development, which outlined the development work undertaken, evaluation of the project, governance and oversight measures. While the initiative was welcomed, the Committee expressed concern over the pace of progress. The focus has been on reviewing 27 Common Awards System (CAS) modules, but the committee expressed a desire to see a review of programmes.

17. Provider – UPDATE ON COMPLAINT

17.1 Provider – Update on Complaint

A verbal update was provided for noting regarding an ongoing complaint involving a provider.