

Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Quality and Qualifications Ireland

APPROVALS AND REVIEWS COMMITTEE

Notes of the 44th meeting of the QQI Approvals and Reviews Committee, held **on Monday the 31st of March 2025 online via Microsoft Teams.**

Participation:

Dr Sean Duignan (Chair)
Mr Tony Petit
Ms Carol Hanney
Dr Elaine Boyd
Prof Maria Hinfelaar
Ms Laura Flynn
Mr Gerry O'Sullivan

In attendance:

Ms Elaine Gannon (secretary)
Ms Karla Keoghan
Ms Yvonne Agnew
Ms Orlaith O'Loughlin
Ms Mairead Boland
Ms Mary Grennan
Ms Marie Gould
Ms Andrea Durnin

Apologies:

Prof. Fiona Farr, Bryan O'Mahony, Anna Murphy and Ronan O'Loughlin

1: APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Committee approved the agenda for the meeting. The Chair declared that he has a conflict of interest for item 12 - Cinnte Review Atlantic Technological University. Prof Maria Hinfelaar declared a conflict of interest for item 10 Cinnte Review – Griffith College. Both agreed to excuse themselves for these items.

2: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 18th of December 2024

The Committee approved the minutes of the ARC meeting held on the 18th of December 2024.

3: NOTES OF THE MEETING OF 18th of December 2024

The Committee approved the notes of the ARC meeting held on 18th of December 2024 which will be published on the QQI website.

4: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5: 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 5, 6 and 7.

5.1 Refusal 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 the application from the Applicant Provider 1.

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

6.1 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 the Applicant Provider 2. It was highlighted that the Applicant Provider 2, have 6 months to address the mandatory changes detailed in the Quality and Capacity Evaluation Panel report.

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

7.1 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. It was noted by Yvonne Agnew that the Explanatory Memorandum stated that there was a virtual site visit, this is incorrect and an in-person site visit took place as per the Assessment of Capacity and Approval of QA Procedures Panel Report.

8: FOCUSED REVIEW UNDER SECTION 34 (1)(b) of the 2012 ACT – Provider 4

Mairead Boland presented this item and highlighted the inclusion of an Executive Paper to provide an overall summary and context to this agenda item.

8.1 Refer back to the Executive – Focused Review Applicant Provider 4

Following a discussion, the Committee did not accept the recommendation of the QQI Executive. The committee's decision is to refer this agenda item to the Executive for further consideration.

9: CINNTE CYCLICAL REVIEW – HIBERNIA COLLEGE

Marie Gould and Andrea Durnin joined the meeting to present item 9,10 and 15.

9.1 Approval to Publish the Report of Hibernia College

The Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI Executive to publish the final report for the CINNTE cyclical review of Hibernia College.

10: CINNTE CYCLICAL REVIEW – GRIFFITH COLLEGE

Prof. Maria Hinfelaar was excused for item 10 and 11.

10.1 Approval to Publish the Report of Griffith College

The Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI Executive to publish the final report for the CINNTE cyclical review of Griffith College.

11: CINNTE CYCLICAL REVIEW – SOUTHEAST TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY (SETU)

Orlaith O'Loughlin (OOL) and Marie Gould (MG) joined the meeting to present items 11,12 and 13. MG stated that pending the approval of agenda items 11 and 12, the Cinnte Cyclical Reviews of the five designated technological universities will be complete and a thematic analysis will be undertaken.

11.1 Approval to Publish the Report of Southeast Technological University (SETU)

The Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI Executive to publish the final report for the CINNTE cyclical review of SETU.

12: CINNTE CYCLICAL REVIEW – ATLANTIC TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY (ATU)

The Chair excused himself and as agreed with the committee Laura Flynn acted as chair for this agenda item.

12.1 Approval to Publish the Report of Atlantic Technological University (ATU)

The Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI Executive to publish the final report for the CINNTE cyclical review of ATU.

13: EUROPEAN APPROACH - DUN LAOGHAIRE INSTITUTE OF ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY REPORT

The Chair rejoined the meeting and OOL outlined the process and background of this agenda item.

13.1 Approval to Publish the Report of Quality Assurance of the Joint Programme based on the European Approach.

The committee approved the outcome and publication of QQI's external evaluation of the quality assurance of the joint programme, Pathfinder – Joint International BA in Film based on the European Approach.

14: TRUSTED IRELAND

Mary Grennan joined the meeting to present item 14.

She gave a presentation that detailed the number of submissions, overview of the process, indicative timelines and implications for the ARC Committee. She was excused from the meeting.

The Chair noted that the first assessment reports are expected to come to the ARC in early September. The ARC Committee are expected to receive a high volume of reports in the September/ October period which will impact on the number of committee meetings required and that the ARC Committee needs to consider how this will be managed. Several suggestions were made by committee members. Following these suggestions, the chair stated that he will liaise with Laura Flynn to discuss this further and will update the committee at the next ARC meeting.

15: CINNTE CYCLICAL REVIEW – NATIONAL COLLEGE OF IRELAND (NCI)

Andrea Durnin presented item 15.

15.1 Approval to Publish the Report of National College of Ireland (NCI)

It was noted that the institutional response from NCI had been received immediately prior to the meeting, and this was shared to the committee members during the discussion of this agenda item. It was noted that the committee considered deferring the approval of this report so that committee members had adequate time to consider the response. However, given that the response was brief, the committee agreed to proceed and accepted the recommendation of the QQI Executive to publish the final report for the CINNTE cyclical review of NCI.

16: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

Chair: _____

Date: _____