

PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (PAEC)

Thursday 27 November 2025 at 9.30am

via Microsoft Teams

Note of the 82nd meeting of the QQI Programmes and Awards Executive Committee held via Microsoft Teams, at 9.30am on **27 November 2025**.

Present:

Dr Lynn Ramsey (Chairperson)
Ms Barbara Kelly
Ms Órla Barry
Ms Roisín Morris-Drennan

In attendance:

Ms Alex Keys
Ms Mairéad Boland
Ms Wendy Mathews
Ms Yvonne Agnew
Ms Laura McNamee
Mr Paul Maguire
Ms Paula Doyle
Ms Katherine Walsh

Apologies: Andrea Durnin, Dr Jim Murray

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 25 September

2.1 The Minutes of the PAEC Meeting held on 25 September circulated were approved by the Committee with minor amendments.

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 25 September 2025

The Committee APPROVED the Note of the PAEC Meeting of 25 September, for publication on the QQI website with minor amendments.

4.3 Report for the Board on the PAEC meeting of 25 September 2025

The Committee NOTED the Report for the Board on the PAEC Meeting of 25 September 2025 with minor amendments.

5. PROGRAMME VALIDATION APPLICATIONS

5.1 Further Education and Training (FET) Programmes

5.1.1. Named Provider

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee REFUSED the validation of the programme below.

5.1.1.1 PG26413, Train the Trainer, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 30 Credits

5.1.2 Forus Training

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 PG25834, Security Guarding Skills, Level 4, Special Purpose Award. 10 FET credits, CAS

5.1.2.2 PG25835, Door Security Skills, Level 4, Special Purpose Award. 10 FET credits, CAS

5.1.3 Chevron College Ltd

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated 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.

5.1.3.1 PG26461, Specific Purpose Certificate in Dementia Care and Support, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET credits

5.1.4 National Organic Training Skillnet

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated 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.

5.1.4.1 PG26328, Organic Market Gardening, Level 5, Minor Award, 15 FET credits

5.1.5 Kildare & Wicklow 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 Certificates of Validation.

- 5.1.5.1 PG26403, Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Customer Experience Design for Business, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET Credits
- PG26405, Certificate in Customer Experience and Business Strategy, Level 6, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits
- PG26406, Certificate in Design Thinking for Business Innovation, Level 6, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits
- PG26407, Certificate in Embedding Organisational Resilience, Level 6, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits

5.1.6 Mayo Sligo & Leitrim Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated 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.

- 5.1.6.1 PG26492, Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Women Who Lead, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 10 FET Credits

5.1.7 Cork Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated 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.

- 5.1.7.1 PG26326, Level 4 Certificate in Music, Level 4, Major Award, 90 FET Credits

5.1.8 Dublin & Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated 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.

- 5.1.8.1 PG26431, Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Learning & Skills Development for Business, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET Credits
- PG26433, Certificate in Skills Planning for Business, Level 6, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits
- PG26434, Certificate in Skills Solutions for Business, Level 6, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits
- PG26435, Certificate in Skills Strategy for Business, Level 6, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits

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 was presented for validation to lead to **Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Corporate Sustainability Reporting**. The programme is based on a curriculum *originally validated for Longford and Westmeath*

ETB in July 2025. It was screened to ensure that there was only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

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

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

- **Limerick & Clare Education and Training Board** PG26601
- **Cavan & Monaghan Education and Training Board** PG26626
- **Cork Education and Training Board** PG26640
- **Galway & Roscommon Education and Training Board** PG26649

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 was presented for validation to lead to the **Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Sustainability Leadership**. The programme is based on a curriculum originally validated for *Mayo, Sligo, & Leitrim ETB in June 2025*. It was screened to ensure that there is only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Sustainability Leadership, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits, PDAS

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

- **Cavan & Monaghan Education and Training Board** PG26629
- **Kerry Education and Training Board** PG26620
- **Cork Education and Training Board** PG26639

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 was presented for validation to lead to **Level 4 Specific Purpose Certificate in Introduction to Artificial Intelligence**. The programme is based on a curriculum *validated for Donegal ETB in July 2025*. It was screened to ensure that there is only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

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

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

- **Limerick & Clare Education and Training Board** PG26602
- **Cavan & Monaghan Education and Training Board** PG26625
- **Kerry Education and Training Board** PG26622
- **Kildare & Wicklow Education and Training Board** PG26644
- **Dublin & Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board** PG26660
- **Waterford & Wexford Education and Training Board** PG26657

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 programme listed below was presented for validation to lead to the **Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Enhancing**

Productivity with AI. The programmes are based on a curriculum *originally validated for Tipperary ETB in July 2025*. It was screened to ensure that there is only variation from the curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

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

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

- **Cavan & Monaghan Education and Training Board PG26624**
- **Kerry Education and Training Board PG26623**
- **Cork Education and Training Board PG26641**
- **Galway & Roscommon Education and Training Board PG26648**
- **Kildare & Wicklow Education and Training Board PG26645**
- **Dublin & Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board PG26662**
- **Waterford & Wexford Education and Training Board PG26659**
- **City of Dublin Education and Training Board PG26665**

5.2.5 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 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Using Robotics in Advanced Manufacturing**. The programmes are based on a curriculum *originally validated for Louth & Meath ETB in July 2022*. Each was screened to ensure that there is only variation from the curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Using Robotics in Advanced Manufacturing, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 30 FET credits, PDAS

Certificate in Fundamentals of Robotics, Level 6, Minor Award, 5 FET credits

Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals and Application, Level 6, Minor Award, 10 FET credits

Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals and Integration, Level 6, Minor Award, 10 FET credits

Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals and Robot Programming, Level 6, Minor Award, 15 FET credits

Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals, Developments and Trends, Level 6, Minor Award, 10 FET credits

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- **Cavan & Monaghan Education and Training Board PG26630, PG26634, PG26635, PG26636, PG26637, PG26638**
- **Kildare & Wicklow Education and Training Board PG26618, PG26646, PG26651, PG26652, PG26655, PG26656**

5.2.6 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 was presented for validation to lead to the **Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Mentorship Practice**. The programme is based on a curriculum *originally validated for Mayo Sligo & Leitrim ETB in June 2022*. It was screened to ensure that there is only variation from the curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Mentorship Practice, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 10 FET Credits, PDAS

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- **Cork Education and Training Board PG26642**

5.2.7 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 was presented for validation to lead to the **Level 3 Specific Purpose Certificate in Introduction to STEAM**. The programme is based on a curriculum *originally validated for Tipperary ETB in July 2022*. It was screened to ensure that there is only variation from the curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 3 Specific Purpose Certificate in Introduction to STEAM, Level 3, Special Purpose Award, 30 FET credits, PDAS

Level 3 Specific Purpose Certificate in STEAM Fundamentals, Level 3, Special Purpose Award, 10 FET credits

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- **Longford & Westmeath Education and Training Board** PG26643, PG26647

5.2.8 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 was presented for validation to lead to the **Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Restorative Practice for Professionals**. The programme is based on a curriculum *originally validated for Donegal ETB in July 2025*. It was screened to ensure that there is only variation from the curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Restorative Practice for Professionals, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 10 FET Credits, PDAS

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- **Cork Education and Training Board** PG26653

5.3 Higher Education and Training Programmes – Programme Validation

5.3.1 Named Provider

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee REFUSED the validation of the programmes below.

5.3.1.1 PG25861, Certificate in Entrepreneurial Excellence & Decision Making, Level 9, Special Purpose Award, 30 Credits

5.3.2 Consortium of Centres of Nursing and Midwifery Education (CCNME)

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.

5.3.1.1 PG25858, Certificate in Comprehensive Health Assessment (Adult), Level 8, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits

5.4 Devolution of Responsibility for Validation Sub-Processes

5.4.1 Hibernia College

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee DEFERRED its decision pending receipt of further information from Hibernia College.

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 Griffith College Dublin

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

- 6.1.1.1 PG24273, Master of Science in Digital Transformation (Life Science), Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
- PG24274, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Digital Transformation (Life Science), Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits
- PG24275, Certificate in Science in Operational Excellence and Data Analytics (Life Science), Level 9, Minor Award, 30 Credits
- PG24276, Certificate in Science in Advanced Manufacturing Strategy (Life Science), Level 9, Minor Award, 30 Credits

The rationale for this request was as follows:

A one-year extension is requested to allow time for strategic review of programme titling and market positioning in light of macroeconomic challenges and declining international demand. Despite efforts to revise content and title, market feedback remains limited, raising concerns about small student cohorts and potential quality impacts. The extension will support a domestic intake in February 2026, enable exploration of alternative markets, and ensure the programme remains fit for purpose.

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

6.1.2 Education and Training Boards- Shared Curriculum

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The ETBs below have requested a one-year extension of validation for the following programme:

- 6.1.2.1 Advanced Certificate in Agriculture
- Certificate in Farming
- Certificate in Agriculture

Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board

PG24117, Certificate in Agriculture, Level 5, Major Award, 120 Credits

PG24118, Advanced Certificate in Agriculture, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits

PG24119, Certificate in Farming, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 50 Credits

Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board

PG24120, Certificate in Agriculture, Level 5, Major Award, 120 Credits

PG24121, Advanced Certificate in Agriculture, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits

PG24122, Certificate in Farming, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 50 Credits

Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board

PG24124, Certificate in Agriculture, Level 5, Major Award, 120 Credits

PG24123, Advanced Certificate in Agriculture, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits

PG24125, Certificate in Farming, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 50 Credits

The rationale for this request was as follows:

MSLETB, WWETB, and GRTEB are seeking an extension until September 2026 to avoid overlap with QQI's planned review of the Common Award Standards, including Agriculture, and to allow time to engage with QQI so that the standards development process can inform and support their programme revalidation.

The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date until September 2026.

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 three 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 PG26304, MSc in International Accounting and Finance, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
PG26305, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in International Accounting and Finance, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits *(Exit Award)*

6.2.1.2 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 National Adult Literacy Agency

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 PG26400, General Learning Level 1, Level 1, Major Award, 20 Credits

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

7.1 Update on the follow-up of conditions of validation

7.1.1 SOLAS- Follow-up on Special Conditions of Validation

As part of its internal quality assurance procedures, the executive is required to follow up on any Conditions of Validation imposed by the Programmes and Awards Executive Committee.

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee APPROVED the update and confirmed that the special conditions of validation had been addressed.

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 Carraig Safety Consultants LTD

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

At its meeting on 12 June 2024, the PAEC approved the QA procedures of Carraig Safety LTD with one condition of QA Approval.

On 11 June 2025, Carraig Safety Consultants Ltd confirmed that it had addressed condition the outstanding condition raised in the report.

The Committee NOTED that the executive is satisfied that the condition of QA Approval has 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

First Instance of Consideration by PAEC

9.1 Dublin Business School

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee APPROVED Dublin Business School’s application to extend its current scope of provision to include fully online synchronous and asynchronous, national and transnational programmes.

9.2 Named Provider

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee REFUSED pending mandatory changes in the providers application to extend its current scope of provision to include blended, onsite and synchronous only delivery.

9.3 Named Provider

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee REFUSED pending mandatory changes to the providers application to extend its current scope of provision to include blended, onsite and synchronous only delivery.

Extension of Scope of Provision through Programme Validation – For Noting

9.4 Forus Training – Extension of Scope to include provision of ISCED 10.3.2 Services – Protection of persons and property

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated

The Committee APPROVED Forus Training’s application to extend its current scope of provision through programme validation.

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

14.1 Withdrawal of Validation of Programmes

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The committee APPROVED the withdrawal of a named provider’s validation of one programme.

15. REPORT ON A NAMED PROVIDER

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee directed the Executive to monitor the situation and NOTED the report.

16. UPDATE ON DEVOLVED RESPONSIBILITY PROCEDURES FOR ETBS

16.1 Update on Devolved Responsibility Procedures for ETBs

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. relating to updated devolved responsibility procedures for ETBs.

The Committee APPROVED the documentation.

17. BATCH DIFFERENTIAL VALIDATION PROCESS FOLLOWING EXTENSION OF SCOPE OF PROVISION FOR BLENDED AND/OR FULLY ONLINE PROGRAMMES

17.1 Batch Differential Validation Process following Extension of Scope of Provision for Blended and/or Fully Online Programmes

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee considered QQI's proposal for a one-off batch differential validation process for each provider, to support providers transitioning to blended and/or fully online delivery following the end of Covid contingency arrangements on 30 June 2025.

Providers who extend their scope and update QA procedures may apply within 12 months for differential validation of multiple programmes in a single batch. The process applies only to programmes previously validated under the 2016 policy and excludes those near expiry, transnational delivery, and major undergraduate awards

The Committee APPROVED the batch differential validation template and process.

18. SOLAS – UPDATE REPORT ON APPRENTICESHIPS

18.1 SOLAS – Update Report on Apprenticeship

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee noted the SOLAS update on the implementation of revalidated craft apprenticeship programmes, associated transition planning, and governance measures. The update also referenced the future transfer of curriculum and assessment responsibilities to education providers.

19. SOLAS – UPDATE ON REVALIDATION OF OUTSTANDING CRAFT APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMMES

19.1 SOLAS – Update on Revalidation of Outstanding Craft Apprenticeship Programmes

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The PAEC discussed the update and referred the matter back to the Executive for further consideration.