

Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Quality and Qualifications Ireland

APPROVALS AND REVIEWS COMMITTEE

Notes of the 47th meeting of the QQI Approvals and Reviews Committee, held **on Tuesday 11th of November 2025 online via Microsoft Teams.**

Participation:

Dr Sean Duignan (Chair)
Dr Elaine Boyd
Prof Fiona Farr
Ms Carol Hanney
Dr Anna Murphy
Prof Maria Hinfelaar
Ms Laura Flynn
Mr Gerry O'Sullivan
Mr Tony Pettit

In attendance:

Ms Karla Keogan (Acting secretary)
Ms Mairéad Boland
Ms Yvonne Agnew
Ms Mary Grennan
Ms Alex Keys

Apologies:

Mr Ronan O'Loughlin

1: APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Committee approved the agenda for the meeting.

2: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 6TH OF OCTOBER 2025

The Committee approved the minutes of the ARC meeting held on the 6th of October 2025.

3: NOTES OF THE MEETING OF 6TH OF OCTOBER 2025

The Committee approved the notes of the ARC meeting held on the 6th of October 2025 which will be published on the QQI website.

4: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The committee discussed the media coverage in relation to the Focused Review of the implementation and effectiveness of QA procedures for the assessment of phases 4 and 6 of the advanced certificate craft – electrical under section 34(1)(b) of the quality and qualifications act 2012: SOLAS, item 5 from the previous Approvals and Reviews Committee meeting held on the 6th of October 2025. The Chair confirmed that the QQI Board received advance viewing of the SOLAS focused review report before publication. The report was published on the QQI website on the 4th of November 2025.

5: FOCUSED REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE QA PROCEDURES FOR RPL AND ASSESSMENT UNDER SECTION 34(1)(B) OF THE QUALITY AND QUALIFICATIONS ACT 2012: CITY EDUCATION GROUP (CEG)

Mairéad Boland, Yvonne Agnew and Alex Keys joined the meeting to present item 5 and 6.

5.1 Approval to publish the final report of the focused review of City Education Group (CEG) under Section 34 (1)(b) of the 2012 Act, alongside all relevant accompanying documentation.

The Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive to publish the final report of the focused review of City Education Group (CEG) under Section 34 (1)(b) of the 2012 Act, alongside all relevant accompanying documentation, including the:

- review terms of reference
- site visit schedule
- provider response letter to the review report
- Independent Expert Observations on Revised CEG's RPL Procedures
- Provider response to Independent Expert Observations on Revised CEG's RPL Procedures

The committee also noted the Executive's update on implementation of the enhanced monitoring plan for CEG (now CCD).

To ensure transparency, the committee made a recommendation to the QQI executive to include details within the focused review report of the recent organisation name change of City Education Group (CEG) to City Colleges Dublin (CCD).

6: PROVIDER ACCESS TO INITIAL VALIDATION OF PROGRAMMES LEADING TO QQI AWARDS: MICROSOFT IRELAND OPERATIONS LIMITED (MIOL) TRADING AS DREAM SPACE

6.1 Approval of Draft Quality Assurance Procedures: Microsoft Ireland Operations Limited (MIOL) trading as Dream Space

The Approvals and Reviews Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive to approve with condition of QA approval the application from Microsoft Ireland Operations Limited (MIOL) trading as Dream Space and to approve its progression to Stage 2 of the initial access to validation process to allow it to now make an application for validation of its NFQ Levels 4 – 8, with both blended and fully online delivery modes in the area of IT.

It was noted that the date of the last Approvals and Reviews Committee meeting was omitted on the panel report and memorandum that was shared with the committee, these dates will be rectified on the final report before publication.

7: TRUSTED IRELAND (HE PATHWAY) APPLICANT: DUBLIN BUSINESS SCHOOL (DBS)

Mary Grennan joined the meeting to discuss item 7, 8 and 9.

7.1 Approval to authorise Dublin Business School (DBS) to use the TrustEd Ireland mark (HE Pathway) with conditions.

The Approvals and Reviews Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive to approve to authorise Dublin Business School (DBS) to use the TrustEd Ireland mark with conditions and recommendations, and to publish the Assessment Report.

8: TRUSTED IRELAND (HE PATHWAY) APPLICANT: NATIONAL COLLEGE OF IRELAND (NCI)

8.1 Approval to authorise National College of Ireland (NCI) to use the TrustEd Ireland mark (HE Pathway) with conditions.

The Approvals and Reviews Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive to approve to authorise National College of Ireland (NCI) to use the TrustEd Ireland mark with condition, recommendations and commendations, and to publish the Assessment Report.

9: TRUSTED IRELAND (HE PATHWAY) APPLICANT: NATIONAL COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN (NCAD)

9.1 Approval to authorise National College of Art and Design (NCAD) to use the TrustEd Ireland mark (HE Pathway) with conditions.

The Approvals and Reviews Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive to approve to authorise National College of Art and Design (NCAD) to use the TrustEd Ireland mark with condition, recommendations and commendations, and to publish the Assessment Report.

10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

Chair: _____

Date: _____