

Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Quality and Qualifications Ireland

APPROVALS AND REVIEWS COMMITTEE

Notes of the 49th meeting of the QQI Approvals and Reviews Committee, held **on Tuesday 2nd of December 2025 online via Microsoft Teams.**

Participation:

Dr Sean Duignan (Chair)
Prof Fiona Farr (Vice Chair)
Ms Laura Flynn
Prof Maria Hinfelaar
Mr Gerry O'Sullivan

In attendance:

Ms Karla Keogan (Acting secretary)
Ms Mary Grennan
Ms Jennifer Osborne

Apologies:

Ms Carol Hanney, Dr Anna Murphy, Mr Tony Pettit, Dr Rory O'Sullivan, Dr Elaine Boyd and Mr Ronan O'Loughlin.

1: APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Committee approved the agenda for the meeting. Dr Sean Duignan declared a conflict of interest for item 5 - Atlantic Technological University. Prof Maria Hinfelaar declared a conflict of interest for item 10- Applicant Provider 1 and item 12 - Griffith College. Prof Fiona Farr declared a conflict of interest for item 9 – Trinity College Dublin and item 15 - Mary Immaculate College. They agreed to excuse themselves from these items.

2: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 19TH OF NOVEMBER 2025 (ARC/M48)

The Committee approved the minutes of the ARC meeting held on the 19th of November 2025.

3: NOTES OF THE MEETING OF 19TH OF NOVEMBER 2025 (ARC/A49/3)

The Committee approved the notes of the ARC meeting held on the 19th of November 2025 which will be published on the QQI website.

4: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5: TRUSTED IRELAND (HE PATHWAY) APPLICANT: ATLANTIC TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Mary Grennan and Jennifer Osborne joined the meeting to discuss items 5 to 16.

Dr Sean Duignan was excused for item 5.

5.1 Approval to authorise Atlantic Technological University 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 Atlantic Technological University to use the TrustEd Ireland mark with conditions, recommendations, and commendations and to publish the assessment report and provider response.

Jennifer confirmed that NStep supported QQI in the recruitment of student representative panel members. QQI ensured that all student representatives had experience as an international student in Ireland and had no conflicts of interest.

Mary noted that ATU have a collaboration with the private college IBAT for three foundation programmes, these will be reflected in the IBAT TrustEd application.

6: TRUSTED IRELAND (HE PATHWAY) APPLICANT: DUNDALK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

6.1 Approval to authorise Dundalk Institute of Technology 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 Dundalk Institute of Technology to use the TrustEd Ireland mark with conditions, recommendations and commendation, and to publish the assessment report and provider response.

Jennifer stated that all conditions and recommendations will be monitored formally by QQI through the monitoring process to be established.

7: TRUSTED IRELAND (HE PATHWAY) APPLICANT: DÚN LAOGHAIRE INSTITUTE OF ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

7.1 Approval to authorise Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology to use the TrustEd Ireland mark (HE Pathway) with condition.

The Approvals and Reviews Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive to approve to authorise Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology to use the TrustEd Ireland mark with condition and recommendations and to publish the assessment report and provider response.

8: TRUSTED IRELAND (HE PATHWAY) APPLICANT: INDEPENDENT COLLEGE

8.1 Approval to authorise Independent College 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 Independent College to use the TrustEd Ireland mark with conditions and recommendations, and to publish the assessment report and provider response.

The committee considered the possibility of QQI publishing a thematic analysis report upon completion of the process, with the intention of providing valuable insights to providers in the future. Mary confirmed that QQI conducted a process audit of the TrustEd assessments, which will result in the publication of a report to be submitted to the Approvals and Reviews Committee for their information.

9: TRUSTED IRELAND (HE PATHWAY) APPLICANT: TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

Prof Fiona Farr was excused for item 9

9.1 Approval to authorise Trinity College Dublin to use the TrustEd Ireland mark (HE Pathway) with condition.

The Approvals and Reviews Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive to approve to authorise Trinity College Dublin to use the TrustEd Ireland mark with condition, recommendation, and commendations, and to publish the assessment report and provider response.

In line with the decision made at the last Approvals and Reviews Committee meeting on the 19th of November 2025, any conditions specified by the assessment panel will be published regardless of whether providers state that they have already addressed them. Conditions and recommendations will be subject to formal monitoring as part of the planned monitoring process.

10: TRUSTED IRELAND (HE PATHWAY) APPLICANT: APPLICANT PROVIDER 1

Prof Maria Hinfelaar was excused for item 10.

10.1 Approval to authorise Applicant Provider 1 to use the TrustEd Ireland mark (HE Pathway) with conditions.

The Approvals and Reviews Committee referred item 10.1 Approval to authorise Applicant Provider 1 to use the TrustEd Ireland mark (HE Pathway) with conditions back to the QQI executive for further consideration and deferred the decision to the next Approvals and Reviews Committee meeting pending further information.

11: TRUSTED IRELAND (HE PATHWAY) APPLICANT: MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

11.1 Approval to authorise Maynooth University to use the TrustEd Ireland mark (HE Pathway).

The Approvals and Reviews Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive to approve to authorise Maynooth University to use the TrustEd Ireland mark with recommendations and commendations, and to publish the assessment report and provider response.

12: TRUSTED IRELAND (HE PATHWAY) APPLICANT: GRIFFITH COLLEGE

Prof Maria Hinfelaar was excused for item 12.

12.1 Approval to authorise Griffith College to use the TrustEd Ireland mark (HE Pathway) with condition.

The Approvals and Reviews Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive to approve to authorise Griffith College to use the TrustEd Ireland mark with condition, recommendations and commendation, and to publish the assessment report and provider response.

13: TRUSTED IRELAND (HE PATHWAY) APPLICANT: GALWAY BUSINESS SCHOOL

13.1 Approval to authorise Galway Business School 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 Galway Business School to use the TrustEd Ireland mark with conditions and recommendations, and to publish the Assessment Report.

The approval was granted by the committee on the assurance that there will be a formal monitoring process for monitoring conditions and recommendations.

14: TRUSTED IRELAND (HE PATHWAY) APPLICANT: INSTITUTE OF BANKING

14.1 Approval to authorise Institute of Banking 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 Institute of Banking to use the TrustEd Ireland mark with conditions, recommendation and commendation, and to publish the assessment report and provider response.

Conditions and recommendations will be subject to formal monitoring by QQI as part of the planned monitoring process.

15: TRUSTED IRELAND (HE PATHWAY) APPLICANT: MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE

Prof Fiona Farr was excused for item 15

15.1 Approval to authorise Mary Immaculate College 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 Mary Immaculate College to use the TrustEd Ireland mark with conditions and commendations, and to publish the assessment report and provider response.

16: TRUSTED IRELAND (HE PATHWAY) APPLICANT: UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK

16.1 Approval to authorise University College Cork to use the TrustEd Ireland mark (HE Pathway) with condition.

The Approvals and Reviews Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive to approve to authorise University College Cork to use the TrustEd Ireland mark with condition, recommendations and commendations, and to publish the assessment report and provider response.

17: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mary noted that sixteen ELE providers will be presented to the Approvals and Reviews Committee for consideration. She also highlighted that because of delays in the due diligence process, the Committee may receive some ELE applications that are pending successful completion of the due diligence process or may receive fewer ELE applications in December 2025. As a result, the Approvals and Reviews Committee may need to reconvene in January or February 2026 to review the ELE applications. Mary will provide the committee with further updates as more information becomes available.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chair: _____

Date: _____