

PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (PAEC)

Thursday 25 September 2025 at 9.30am

via Microsoft Teams

Note of the 81st meeting of the QQI Programmes and Awards Executive Committee held via Microsoft Teams, at 9.30am on **25 September 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:

Ms Alex Keys
Ms Katherine Walsh
Ms Mairéad Boland
Ms Wendy Matthews
Ms Yvonne Agnew
Mr Dimitrios Paraskevas
Ms Vivienne Keeley

Observer: Ms Anne Gildea
Apologies: Laura McNamee

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 17 July and 13 August

2.1 The Minutes of the PAEC Meeting held on 17 July circulated were approved by the Committee with minor amendments.

2.2 The Minutes of the PAEC Meeting held on 13 August circulated 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 17 July 2025

The Committee APPROVED the Note of the PAEC Meeting of 17 July for publication on the QQI website with minor amendments.

4.2 Note of Meeting of 13 August 2025

The Committee APPROVED the Note of the PAEC Meeting of 13 August for publication on the QQI website.

4.3 Report for the Board on the PAEC meeting of 17 July 2025

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

5. PROGRAMME VALIDATION APPLICATIONS

5.1 Further Education and Training (FET) Programmes

5.1.1 Security Institute of Ireland

The Committee NOTED the documentation 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 PG26427, Physical Intervention Principles & Practice, Level 5, Minor Award, 15 FET credits

5.1.2 City of Dublin Education & Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation 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 Certificates of Validation.

5.1.2.1 PG26357, Level 6 Supplemental Certificate in Dance Instruction, Level 6, Supplemental Award, 45 FET credits

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

5.2.1 The Committee NOTED the documentation. 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 the **Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Dementia Care and Support**. The programme is 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:

- **Waterford & Wexford Education and Training Board** PG26531

5.2.2 The Committee NOTED the documentation. 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 Digital Assisted Eco Driving (Coach & Bus)**. The programme is based on a curriculum originally validated for *Waterford & Wexford, and Mayo, Kilkenny & Carlow, Sligo & Leitrim ETBs in June 2022*. It was screened to ensure that there is only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Digital Assisted Eco Driving (Coach & Bus), Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 10 FET Credits, PDAS

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

- **City of Dublin Education and Training Board** PG25555

5.2.3 The Committee NOTED the documentation. 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 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Lowland Leadership**. The programme is based on a curriculum *validated for Kilkenny Carlow ETB in December 2021*. It was screened to ensure that there is only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Lowland Leadership, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET Credits, PDAS

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

- **City of Dublin Education and Training Board** PG26556

5.2.4 The Committee NOTED the documentation. 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 programmes are based on a curriculum *originally validated for Waterford & Wexford ETB in April 2024*. 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 programme:

- **Limerick & Clare Education and Training Board** PG26551

5.2.5 The Committee NOTED the documentation. 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 Managing the Sustainable Home**. The programmes are based on a curriculum *originally validated for Cavan & Monaghan ETB in*

July 2024. Each was screened to ensure that there is only variation from the curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 3 Specific Purpose Certificate in Managing the Sustainable Home, Level 3, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET credits, PDAS

Certificate in Sustainable Home Finances, Level 3, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits

Certificate in Food Management for a Sustainable Home, Level 3, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits

Certificate in Utilities Management for a Sustainable Home, Level 3, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- **Kilkenny & Carlow Education and Training Board** PG26541, PG26542, PG26543, PG26544

5.2.6 The Committee NOTED the documentation. 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 the 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 programmes:

- **Limerick & Clare Education and Training Board** PG26552
- **Louth & Meath Education and Training Board** PG26594
- **Galway & Roscommon Education and Training Board** PG26583

5.2.7 The Committee NOTED the documentation. 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 programme is 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 programmes:

- **Donegal Education and Training Board** PG26580
- **Mayo Sligo & Leitrim Education and Training Board** PG26591
- **Longford & Westmeath Education and Training Board** PG26572
- **Louth & Meath Education and Training Board** PG26595

5.2.8 The Committee NOTED the documentation. 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 4 Specific Purpose Certificate in Introduction to Artificial Intelligence**. 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 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 programmes:

- **Tipperary Education and Training Board** PG26573
- **Mayo Sligo & Leitrim Education and Training Board** PG26587
- **Longford & Westmeath Education and Training Board** PG26581
- **Louth & Meath Education and Training Board** PG26596
- **Galway & Roscommon Education and Training Board** PG26598

5.2.9 The Committee NOTED the documentation. 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 Corporate Sustainability Reporting**. The programme is based on a curriculum *originally validated for Longford & Westmeath ETB in July 2025*. It was screened to ensure that there is only variation from the 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 programmes:

- **Louth & Meath Education and Training Board** PG26590
- **Mayo Sligo & Leitrim Education and Training Board** PG26593

5.3 Higher Education and Training Programmes – Programme Validation

5.3.1 Griffith College

The Committee NOTED the documentation 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 PG26381, Master of Science in Sustainable Engineering Management, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG26382, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Sustainable Engineering Management, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits

5.3.1.2 PG26529, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accounting, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

5.3.1.3 PG26530, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Finance, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

Items 5.3.1.2 and 5.3.1.3 were considered with programme revalidation item 6.2.1.1

5.3.2 National College of Ireland

The Committee NOTED the documentation 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.

5.3.2.1 PG26563, Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Computing, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits
PG26564, Bachelor of Science in Computing, Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits (*Exit Award*)
PG26588, Higher Certificate in Science in Computing, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits

5.3.2.2 PG26565, Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Data Science, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits
PG26566, Bachelor of Science in Data Science, Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits (*Exit Award*)
PG26589, Higher Certificate in Science in Data Science, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits

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 Galway Business School

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

6.1.1.1 PG24742, Certificate in Human Resource Management, Level 7, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits

The rationale for this request was as follows:

An extension request for one year is sought for the above programme, Certificate in Human Resource Management, to allow additional time to complete a comprehensive revalidation process that ensures the programme continues to meet QQI standards, reflects evolving human resource skill demands, and incorporates the latest quality assurance expectations.

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

6.1.2 Griffith College

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

6.1.2.1 PG24750, Certificate in Law and Governance for Trustees, Level 8, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits

The rationale for this request was as follows:

Griffith College, in collaboration with the Irish Institute of Pensions Management, is developing a new programme to replace the Higher Diploma in Arts in Pensions Management. The proposed programme will include a module, meeting the requirements of the Certificate in Law and Governance for Trustees, offered as an embedded award. To facilitate continued accreditation of learners as Qualified Pension Trustees during the development and QQI validation of the new programme, a one-year extension of the current programme is requested.

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

6.1.3 Innopharma Labs Ltd

The Committee NOTED the documentation. Innopharma Labs Ltd has requested a one-year extension of validation for the following programme:

- 6.1.3.1 PG24986, Certificate in Operational Excellence, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 25 Credits
- PG25015, Certificate in Supply Chain, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 20 Credits
- PG25016, Certificate in Transversal Skills for a Digital Workplace, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 5 Credits
- PG25017, Certificate in Information Technology and Industrial Automation, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 30 Credits
- PG25018, Certificate in Data Visualisation and Analysis, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 25 Credits

The rationale for this request was as follows:

Innopharma Labs Ltd is requesting a one-year extension for the Higher Certificate in Science in Process Digitisation and its five associated Special Purpose Awards (SPAs). The current last intake dates are 31st August 2026 for the principal programme and 31st January 2026 for the SPAs.

To ensure consistency in programme management and to facilitate a single revalidation process, it is proposed to align the SPAs' intake date with the principal programme (31st August 2026). The SPAs share significant curriculum content and delivery resources with the principal programme, and there remains strong industry and learner demand for upskilling in process digitisation, particularly through ETB partnerships.

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 Griffith College

The Committee NOTED the documentation. 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 PG26525 Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

PG26526, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business (HRM), Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits
PG26527, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business (Marketing), Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits
PG26528, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accounting and Finance, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

Please refer to Items 5.3.1.2 and 5.3.1.3 under Programme Validation for 2 new programmes

PG26529, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accounting, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

6.2.1.2 PG26557, Higher Diploma in Arts in Drama Education, Level 8, Major Award, 60 Credits
PG26558, Certificate in Drama Education, Level 8, Special Purpose Award, 40 Credits
PG26559, Certificate in Drama Performance, Level 8, Special Purpose Award, 15 Credits

6.2.1.3 PG26562, Bachelor of Engineering in Industrial and Systems Engineering, Level 7, Major Award, 60 Credits

6.2.1.4 PG26570, Certificate in Applied Human Resource Management for Irish Hotels and Guesthouses, Level 7, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits

6.2.2 Dublin Business School

The Committee NOTED the documentation. 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 PG26493, Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Computing, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits
PG26494, Bachelor of Science in Computing, Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits (*Exit Award*)

6.2.3 Kerry Education and Training Board

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 PG26491, Advanced Certificate in Industrial Wind Turbine Engineering, Level 6, Major Award, 220 Credits

6.3 Application for Modification of Validated Programmes

6.3.1 Limerick & Clare Education and Training Board & Waterford & Wexford Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The modification request relates to updating the programme equipment list, a brief synopsis and module changes.

LMETB are proposing the modifications to these programmes after consultation with SOLAS, industry experts and KUKA (global automation corporation). They believe that the

changes will enhance the validity and robustness of the award's suitability for differential validation amongst the ETB sector. The modifications will make these programmes more accessible to other ETBs.

The Committee APPROVED the modifications to the following programmes:

PG24874, Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Using Robotics in Advanced Manufacturing, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 30 Credits

PG24875, Certificate in Fundamentals of Robotics, Level 6, Minor Award, 5 Credits

PG24876, Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals and Application, Level 6, Minor Award, 10 Credits

PG24877, Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals and Integration, Level 6, Minor Award, 10 Credits

PG24878, Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals and Robot Programming, Level 6, Minor Award, 15 Credits

PG24879, Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals, Development & Trends, Level 6, Minor Award, 10 Credits

Limerick & Clare Education and Training Board

PG25313, PG25527, PG25528, PG25529, PG25530, PG25531

Waterford & Wexford Education and Training Board

PG25657, PG25658, PG25659, PG25660, PG25661, PG25662

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

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 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

9.1 Children’s Therapy Centre

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee APPROVED Children’s Therapy Centre’s application to extend its current scope of provision to include fully online synchronous and asynchronous, national.

Extension of Scope of Provision through Programme Validation – For Noting

9.2. Security Institute of Ireland

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee NOTED Extension of Scope to include provision of Level 5 (current scope of provision up to Level 4.)

9.3 National College of Ireland

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee NOTED the Extension of Scope to include Erasmus+ study and traineeship mobilities, governed by newly established Erasmus+ quality assurance policy and procedures.

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 Provider QA approval-Irish Times Training

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The committee APPROVED the withdrawal of **Irish Times Training’s** quality assurance procedures and the withdrawal of validation of its programmes.

15. UPDATE ON THE PROCESS FOR AN EXTENSION OF SCOPE OF PROVISION FOR BLENDED AND / OR FULLY ONLINE PROGRAMMES

15.1 Update on the Process for an Extension of Scope of Provision for Blended and / or Fully Online Programmes

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The update outlined the ongoing process of managing scope extension (for blended and fully online learning) applications for education providers. A significant number of applications are currently under review. The executive has been engaging with providers who have had a programme validated by QQI.

These providers have been informed that their applications for extension of scope will be placed on hold until they have had a programme validated. Tranche two of the process is set to begin shortly, with clear guidance and timelines provided to providers.

A one-off batch differential validation process is being developed to support providers to deliver existing validated programmes under their newly approved scope of provision. This will be brought for approval to the November PAEC meeting.

The Committee NOTED the report.

16. UPDATE FROM DUBLIN BUSINESS SCHOOL ON PROGRAMME CLARIFICATIONS SOUGHT BY PAEC COMMITTEE

16.1 Update from Dublin Business School on Programme Clarifications Sought by PAEC Committee

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. relating to the following programmes.

PG24398, Bachelor of Arts in Business, Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits
PG24399, Higher Certificate in Business, Major Award, Level 6, 120 Credits

The Executive confirmed that DBS are working on a response, which will be presented at the next PAEC meeting.

17. UPDATE ON A NAMED PROVIDER FOCUS REVIEW

17.1 Update on A NAMED PROVIDER Focused Review

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The committee noted that the focused review of the provider's RPL and assessment procedures has been satisfactorily concluded following engagement with the review team and the provider. The executive will continue to engage with the provider to progress the outcomes of the review report, The executive noted that the provider is now restructuring under a new name, and several meetings have taken place between the provider and the QQI executive to discuss the development and implementation of new quality assurance procedures for this entity as well as other necessary arrangements.

18. SOLAS – UPDATE REPORT ON APPRENTICESHIPS

18.1 SOLAS – Update Report on Apprenticeship

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The PAEC noted a request for extension of certification of certain award codes from SOLAS. Alongside this, the Executive brought SOLAS' draft quality improvement plan (in response to the recent focused review) and the oversight group terms of reference. The PAEC is now asked to review the submitted documentation and determine whether to approve Solas's formal request for an extension of certification under the old award codes.

The Committee AGREED that it would not permit certification on a legacy code where a new code exists post October 2025.