

PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (PAEC)

Thursday 12 February 2026

Minutes of the 83rd meeting of the QQI Programmes and Awards Executive Committee held via Microsoft Teams, at 9.30am on **12 February 2026**.

Present:

Barbara Kelly (Vice-Chairperson)
Andrea Durnin
Roisín Morris-Drennan
Dr. Jim Murray

In attendance:

Alex Keys
Mairéad Boland
Katherine Walsh
Yvonne Agnew
Laura McNamee
Paul Maguire
Paula Doyle
Vivienne Keeley
Wendy Mathews
Dr. Sharon Feeney (PAOC observer)

Apologies: Dr. Lynn Ramsey, Órla Barry

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Chairperson welcomed an observer from the Programme and Awards Oversight Committee (PAOC), Dr. Sharon Feeney. No conflicts of interest were raised in relation to any of the items of business before the Committee.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 27 November 2025

Minutes of Meeting of 27 November were approved with minor amendments.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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 the PAEC meeting of 27 November 2025

APPROVED for publication on the QQI website, with minor amendments.

4.2 Report for the Board on the PAEC meeting of 27 November 2025

NOTED.

5. PROGRAMME VALIDATION APPLICATIONS

5.1 Further Education and Training (FET) Programmes

5.1.1 A Named Provider

The Committee NOTED the documentation and the detailed report presented. The Committee REFUSED the validation of five programmes of a named provider. The decision to refuse validation will be referred to the Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee (PAOC) for confirmation or referral back to the PAEC.

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 PG25829, Four Stroke Engine Maintenance, Level 3, 5 FET credits, Minor Award

5.1.3 Louth & Meath 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.

5.1.3.1 PG26521, Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in 3D Construction Printing Operations, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 30 FET Credits

5.1.4 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 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.

5.1.4.1 PG26502, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Transversal Skills for Caregivers, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 20 FET Credits
PG26503, Certificate in Communication Skills for Caregivers, Level 5, Minor Award, 5 FE Credits
PG26504, Certificate in Interpersonal Skills for Caregivers, Level 5, Minor Award, 5 FE Credits
PG26505, Certificate in Cultural Awareness for Caregivers, Level 5, Minor Award, 5 FE Credits
PG26506, Certificate in Self-care for Caregivers, Level 5, Minor Award, 5 FE Credits

5.1.5 Cavan & Monaghan 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 PG26605, Level 3 Specific Purpose Certificate in Introduction to Gambling Awareness, Level 3, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

5.1.6 National Organic Training Skillnet

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.

- 5.1.6.1** PG26329, Level 5 Certificate in Organic and Biological Agriculture, Level 5, Major Award, 120 FET Credits

5.1.7 DCM Learning

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.

- 5.1.7.1** PG26536, Bookkeeping Manual and Computerised, Level 5, Minor Award, 15 FET Credits
- 5.1.7.2** PG26537, Payroll Manual and Computerised, Level 5, Minor Award, 15 FET Credits

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

As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programme based on a shared curriculum, the programmes listed below presented for validation are based on a curriculum originally validated at a lead Education and Training Board (ETB). Each was screened to ensure that there was only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

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

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. Based on the curriculum *originally validated for Longford & Westmeath ETB in July 2025*, the Committee APPROVED the validation of the above programme at the following ETBs:

- **Laois & Offaly Education and Training Board** PG26697
- **Dublin & Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board** PG26798

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

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. Based on the curriculum *originally validated for Mayo, Sligo & Leitrim ETB in June 2025*, the Committee APPROVED the validation of the above programme at the following ETBs:

- **Laois & Offaly ETB** PG26708
- **Dublin & Dun Laoghaire ETB** PG26800
- **Longford & Westmeath ETB** PG26709

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

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. Based on the curriculum *originally validated for Donegal ETB in July 2025* the Committee APPROVED the validation of the above programme at the following ETB:

- **Laois & Offaly Education and Training Board** PG26707

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

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. Based on the curriculum *originally validated for Tipperary ETB in July 2025*, the Committee APPROVED the validation of the above programme at the following ETBs:

- **Limerick & Clare Education and Training Board PG26615**
- **Laois & Offaly Education and Training Board PG26721**

5.2.5 Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Immersive Technology, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits, PDAS

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. Based on the curriculum *originally validated for Mayo Sligo & Leitrim ETB in November 2023*, the Committee APPROVED the validation of the above programme at the following ETB:

- **Dublin & Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board PG26782**

5.2.6 Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Wind Energy with Immersive Technologies, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits, PDAS

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. Based on the curriculum *originally validated for Mayo Sligo & Leitrim ETB in April 2024*, the Committee APPROVED the validation of the above programme at the following ETB:

- **Dublin & Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board PG26783**

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

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. Based on the curriculum *originally validated for Waterford & Wexford ETB in April 2024*, the Committee APPROVED the validation of the above programme at the following ETB:

- **Longford & Westmeath Education and Training Board PG26794**

5.3 Higher Education and Training Programmes – Programme Validation

5.3.1 ICEP Europe

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 PG26444, Master of Science in Psychology, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
PG26446, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Psychology, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits [*Exit Award*]

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 programme below 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.

5.3.2.1 PG26399, Certificate in Acute Stroke Nursing, Level 8, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits

5.3.3 The Open Training College

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

5.3.3.1 PG26425, Certificate in Human Service Compliance Management, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 20 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 The Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG)

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

- 6.1.1.1** PG24690, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Temporary Traffic Management Design and Inspection, PDAS, Special Purpose Award, Level 5, 10 credits
- PG24691, Certificate in Temporary Traffic Management Design Level 1 & 2 Roads, PDAS, Minor Award, Level 5, 5 credits
- PG24692, Certificate in Temporary Traffic Management Inspection and Audit, PDAS, Minor Award, Level 5, 5 credits
- 6.1.1.2** PG24678, Certificate in Temporary Traffic Management (High Speed Roads), PDAS, Special Purpose Award, Level 4, 15 credits
- PG24679, Certificate in Temporary Traffic Management - Static, PDAS, Minor Award, Level 4, 5 credits
- PG24680, Certificate in Temporary Traffic Management - Mobile, PDAS, Minor Award, Level 4, 5 credits
- PG24680, Certificate in Temporary Traffic Management – Impact, PDAS, Minor Award, 5 credits

The rationale for this request was as follows:

Due to curriculum review requirements and associated operational delays stemming from the government update of the Roads Act, the potential considerations of the Planning and Development Act and considering stakeholder feedback (government bodies, Local Authorities, learners and trainers) the LASNTG require additional time to complete the programme review and revalidation process in full accordance with QQI standards and guidelines.

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

6.2 Application for Revalidation

No Business

6.3 Application for Modification of Validated Programmes

6.3.1 Cavan & Monaghan Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The modification request relates to revisions of the assessment weightings of five component modules.

The Committee APPROVED the modifications to the following programme:

6.3.1.1 PG23702, Supply Chain Logistics, CAS Major Award 6M2192, Level 6, 120 credits

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

No Business

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 Chevron College

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED Chevron College's application to extend its current scope of provision to include fully online synchronous and asynchronous, national programmes.

9.2 National College of Ireland

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED NCI's application to extend its current scope of provision to include fully online, synchronous and asynchronous, national programmes.

9.3 A Named Provider

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee REFUSED, pending mandatory changes, a named provider's application to extend its current scope of provision.

9.4 A Named Provider

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee REFUSED, pending mandatory changes, a named provider's application to extend its current scope of provision.

9.5 A Named Provider

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee REFUSED pending mandatory changes a named provider's application to extend its current scope of provision.

Second Instance of Consideration by PAEC (Procedures Resubmitted post *Refusal with Mandatory Changes*)

No Business

Extension of Scope through Programme Validation – For Noting

9.6 Forus Training -

Application for extension of Scope to include ISCED 07.1.6 (Engineering, manufacturing and construction) in their approved disciplines as per Item 5.1.2.1. 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

No Business

14.2 Withdrawal of Provider QA Approval – Kilmuckridge Centre for Further Education

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED the withdrawal of Provider QA Approval.

14.3 Withdrawal of Provider QA Approval – Irish Wheelchair Association

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED the withdrawal of Provider QA Approval.

14.4 Withdrawal of Provider QA Approval – County Roscommon Disability Support Group CLG

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED the withdrawal of Provider QA Approval.

15. UPDATE ON A NAMED PROVIDER

The Committee NOTED the update provided.

16. SOLAS UPDATE REPORT

16.1 SOLAS Update Report

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee noted the SOLAS update on the implementation of revalidated craft apprenticeship programmes, associated transition planning, governance, quality assurance, assessment development and security measures.

In recognition of the intended focus of the PAEC on activity related to programme validation, the Chair PROPOSED the formation of a Sub-Committee to address follow-up on matters relating to SOLAS. The Committee APPROVED the appointment of a Sub-Committee to report back to PAEC.

17. UPDATE ON A NAMED PROVIDER

The Committee NOTED the update provided.