

PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (PAEC)

Thursday 11 June 2026

Note of the 85th meeting of the QQI Programmes and Awards Executive Committee held via Microsoft Teams, at 9.30am on **11 June 2026**.

Present:

Órla Barry
Andrea Durnin
Dr. Jim Murray
Roisín Morris-Drennan
Dr. Lynn Ramsey (Chair)

In attendance:

Mairéad Boland
Paula Doyle
Kathleen Duignan
Sharon Feeney (PAOC observer)
Vivienne Keeley
Alex Keys
Orla Lynch
Laura McNamee
Wendy Mathews
Katherine Walsh

Apologies: Barbara Kelly, Yvonne Agnew

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Chair welcomed an observer from the Programme and Awards Oversight Committee (PAOC), Sharon Feeney, and enquired as to any potential conflicts of interest in relation to the items of business before the Committee.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 9 April 2026 (PAEC/M84)

APPROVED.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None arising.

4. NOTE OF THE MEETING, REPORT FOR THE BOARD

4.1 Draft Note of the PAEC meeting of 9 April 2026

APPROVED for publication on the QQI website.

4.2 Report for the Board on the PAEC meeting of 9 April 2026

Noted.

4.3 Proposed revisions to the Code of Practice for PAEC

The Committee deferred consideration and requested a standalone meeting be arranged to consider the Code of Practice and related materials.

5. PROGRAMME VALIDATION APPLICATIONS

5.1 Further Education and Training (FET) Programmes

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.

5.1.1 KARE

PG26554, Step into Learning, Level 2, 30 FET credits, Major Award, *CAS Award*

5.1.2 LeanTeams

PG26497, Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Practical Lean Business Applications, Level 6, 15 FET credits, Special Purpose Award

5.1.3 Cenit College

PG26293, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Introduction to Employment Support, Level 5, 15 FET credits, Special Purpose Award

5.1.4 Tipperary Education & Training Board

PG26842, Level 5 Certificate in Education Studies – Primary Pathway, Level 5, 120 FET credits, Major Award

5.1.5 Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education & Training Board

PG26440, Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in AI Strategic Planning & Legal Fundamentals, Level 6, 10 FET credits, Special Purpose Award

PG26442 Certificate in AI Legal Review and Ethical Review Fundamentals, Level 6, 5 FET Credits, FE Minor Award

PG26443 Certificate in Strategic Planning for AI Fundamentals, Level 6, 5 FET Credits, FE Minor Award

5.1.6 Kildare & Wicklow Education and Training Board

PG26383, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Building Resilience for Customer Relations, Level 5, 15 FET credits, Special Purpose Award

5.1.7 Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board

PG26606 Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Essentials of Warehouse Operations, Level 5, 20 FET credits, Special Purpose Award

PG26607 Certificate in Safe Work Practices in Warehousing, Level 5, 5 FET credits, FE Minor Award

PG26608 Certificate in Technology and Digital Warehousing, Level 5, 5 FET credits, FE Minor Award

PG26609 Certificate in Warehouse Operations and Inventory Control, Level 5, 5 FET credits, FE Minor Award

PG26610 Certificate in Forklift Truck Operations, Level 5, 5 FET credits, FE Minor Award

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

As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes 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. The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and APPROVED validation of the following programmes.

5.2.1

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, PDAS

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

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

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

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

*Based on the curriculum originally validated for Louth & Meath ETB in July 2022, the Committee APPROVED the validation of the above programmes for **Longford & Westmeath Education and Training Board***

PG26869, PG26879, PG26880, PG26881, PG26882, PG26894

5.2.2

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

*Based on the curriculum originally validated for Waterford & Wexford ETB in April 2024, the Committee APPROVED the validation of the above programme for **Kilkenny & Carlow Education and Training Board***- PG26912

5.2.3

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

*Based on the curriculum originally validated for Mayo Sligo & Leitrim ETB in June 2025, the Committee APPROVED the validation of the above programme for **Tipperary Education and Training Board*** PG26600

5.2.4

Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Learning & Skills Development for Business, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET Credits, PDAS

Certificate in Skills Planning for Business, Level 6, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits, PDAS

Certificate in Skills Solutions for Business, Level 6, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits, PDAS

Certificate in Skills Strategy for Business, Level 6, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits, PDAS

*Based on the curriculum originally validated for Dublin & Dun Laoghaire ETB in November 2025, the Committee APPROVED the validation of the above programmes for **Tipperary Education and Training Board*** PG26931, PG26946, PG26947, PG26948

5.2.5

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

*Based on the curriculum originally validated for Longford & Westmeath ETB in July 2025, the Committee APPROVED the validation of the above programmes for **Tipperary Education and Training Board** PG26932*

5.2.6

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

*Based on the curriculum originally validated for Mayo Sligo & Leitrim ETB in April 2024, the Committee APPROVED the validation of the above programme for **Waterford & Wexford Education and Training Board** PG26961*

5.2.7

Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Transversal Skills for Caregivers, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 20 FET credits, PDAS

Certificate in Communication Skills for Caregivers, Level 5, Minor Award, 5 FET credits, PDAS

Certificate in Interpersonal Skills for Caregivers, Level 5, Minor Award, 5 FET credits, PDAS

Certificate in Cultural Awareness for Caregivers, Level 5, Minor Award, 5 FET credits, PDAS

Certificate in Self-care for Caregivers, Level 5, Minor Award, 5 FET credits, PDAS

*Based on the curriculum originally validated for Dublin & Dun Laoghaire ETB in February 2026, the Committee APPROVED the validation of the above programmes for **Longford & Westmeath Education and Training Board** PG26928, PG26935, PG26943, PG26944, PG26945*

5.3 Higher Education And Training Programmes – Programme Validation

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

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed reports 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 Certificates of Validation.

PG26436, Certificate in Caring for a Child with Complex Needs in the Community, Level 8, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits

5.3.2 Innopharma Education

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.

PG26380, Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Process Digitalisation, Level 8, Major Award, 60 Credits

PG26390, Certificate in Digitalisation and AI, Level 8, Minor Award, 20 Credits

PG26391, Certificate in Digital Business Excellence, Level 8, Minor Award, 20 Credits

PG26392, Certificate in Sustainability Practices for Digital Transformation, Level 8, Minor Award, 20 Credits

5.4 Devolution of Responsibility for Validation Sub-Processes

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and APPROVED the applications for devolution of responsibility for validation sub-processes for:

5.4.1 Cork Education & Training Board

5.4.2 Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education & Training Board

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 ICD Business School

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the request for a one-year extension. The rationale for this request is to allow time for the Provider's collection of more comprehensive data to support a more robust evaluation of the programme's performance. The Committee APPROVED ICD Business School's request to extend the last intake date of the following programmes for one year.
PG24376, Postgraduate Diploma in Business in Accounting and Financial Services, Major Award, Level 9, 70 credits
PG24846, Certificate in Project Management, Special Purpose Award, Level 8, 10 credits

6.1.2 CCT College Dublin

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the request for a one-year extension. The rationale for this request relates to the workload associated with QA, Review and Corporate Governance activities within the same timeframe. The Committee APPROVED CCT College Dublin's request to extend the last intake date of the following programmes for one year.
PG24349, Higher Diploma in Science in Data Analytics for Business, Major Award, Level 8, 60 credits
PG24350, Higher Diploma in Science in Artificial Intelligence Concepts and Applications, Major Award, Level 8, 60 credits

6.1.3 Louth Meath Education & Training Board (LMETB)

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.
The rationale for LMETB's request is to allow time for a more comprehensive consultation and review process, enabling the collection of substantive feedback and data from a broader range of programme delivery iterations prior to undertaking full programme revalidation. The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the following programmes for two years.
PG24874, Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Using Robotics in Advanced Manufacturing, Special Purpose Award, Level 6, 30 FET credits
PG24875, Certificate in Fundamentals of Robotics, Minor Award, Level 6, 5 FET Credits
PG247876, Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals and Application, Minor Award, Level 6, 10 FET Credits
PG247877, Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals and Integration, Minor Award, Level 6, 10 FET Credits
PG247878, Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals and Robotic Programming, Minor Award, Level 6, 15 FET Credits
PG247879, Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals, Development and Trends, Minor Award, Level 6, 10 FET Credits

LMETB also requested a three-year extension for a programme affected by resourcing challenges. The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the following programme by one year.
PG25920, Advanced Certificate in Robotics and Automation, Major Award, Level 6, 145 FET credits

6.1.4 Galway Business School (GBS)

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the request for a one-year extension. The rationale for this request relates to dependence on the outcome of GBS's application for extension of scope to blended learning delivery. The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the following programme for one year.

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

6.2 Application for Revalidation

6.2.1 Holmes Institute Dublin

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and detailed reports provided. 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:

PG26810, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business, Major Award, Level 8, 180 credits

PG26915, Certificate in Business, Minor Award, Level 6, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)

6.2.2 National College of Ireland

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and detailed reports provided. 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:

PG26918, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Educational Practice in Teaching for Further Education, Major Award, Level 9, 60 Credits

PG26926, Certificate in Trade Union Studies, Special Purpose Award, Level 6, 60 Credits

PG26914 Certificate in Emerging Digital Technologies, Special Purpose Award, Level 7, 20 Credits

6.2.3 CCT College Dublin

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and detailed reports provided. 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:

PG26650, Master of Science in Data Analytics, Major Award, Level 9, 90 Credits

PG26860, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Data Analytics, Major Award, Level 9, 60 Credits

PG26863, Certificate in Machine Learning for Data Analysis, Minor Award, Level 9, 20 Credits

(*Exit Award*)

6.2.4 SQT Training Limited

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and detailed reports provided. 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:

PG26903, Diploma in Process Engineering – Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, Special Purpose Award, Level 8, 60 Credits

PG26904, Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt, Level 6, 10 FET Credits

PG26905, Certificate in Process Engineering – Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, Special Purpose Award, Level 6, 10 Credits

PG26906, Certificate in Process Engineering – Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, Special Purpose Award, Level 7, 15 Credits

6.3 Application for Modification of Validated Programmes

6.3.1 Mayo Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated in respect of the programmes below offered through the differential validation process. The request relates to modification to update the programmes to align with the approved modifications. The Committee APPROVED the modifications to the following programmes:

PG25595, Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Using Robotics in Advanced Manufacturing, Special Purpose Award, Level 6, 30 FET credits

PG25597, Certificate in Fundamentals of Robotics, Minor Award, Level 6, 5 FET Credits

PG25599, Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals and Application, Minor Award, Level 6, 10 FET Credits

PG25601, Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals and Integration, Minor Award, Level 6, 10 FET Credits

PG25602, Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals and Robotic Programming, Minor Award, Level 6, 15 FET Credits

PG25603, Certificate in Robotics Fundamentals, Development and Trends, Minor Award, Level 6, 10 FET Credits

6.3.2 Dublin Business School

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated in respect of the programme below. The request relates to a modification to the assessment structure of the 'Marketing Essentials' module to align with DBS policy. The Committee APPROVED the modifications to the following programmes:

PG25844, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Marketing, Major Award, Level 8, 180 Credits

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

7.1 Dublin Business School

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and update provided in respect of the following programmes.

PG26735, Master of Science in Applied Psychology (Health and Wellbeing), Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG26736, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Applied Psychology (Health and Wellbeing), Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)

PG26864, Master of Arts in Psychotherapy, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

8. QA FOR COLLABORATIVE AND TRANSNATIONAL PROVISION

No Business

9. APPROVAL OF QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURES FOR EXTENSION OF SCOPE OF PROVISION

9.1 First Instance of Consideration by PAEC

Carlow College St. Patrick's

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED, Carlow College St Patrick's application for an extension of scope of provision for Blended – Onsite and Synchronous and Asynchronous delivery.

Innopharma

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED, with conditions, Innopharma Education's application for an extension of scope of provision for Blended – Onsite and Synchronous and Asynchronous delivery.

Royal College of Physicians

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED, with conditions, CPI's application for an extension of scope of provision for Fully Online – Synchronous and Asynchronous, National delivery.

Forus Training

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED, with conditions, Forus Training's application for an extension of scope of provision to include Fully Online – Synchronous and Asynchronous, National delivery.

Refusals:

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and reports provided in respect of applications for an extension of scope of provision from four named providers. The Committee REFUSED, pending mandatory changes, four applications for an extension of scope of provision.

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

No Business

9.3 Extension of Scope through Programme Validation – For Noting

9.3.1 LeanTeams

The Committee NOTED the request for extension of Scope to include delivery of level 6 programmes as per item 5.1.2.1. The Committee APPROVED LeanTeams' 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

14.2.1 FSPA Ltd

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

15. UPDATES ON PROVIDERS

15.1 SOLAS Update

The Committee NOTED the approval of the Terms of Reference for the Executive Oversight Group for SOLAS. The four strands of activity will include the transfer of craft apprenticeship to delivery providers, Follow-up from the 2025 focused review, validation (including revalidation and differential validation) and the CSCS and QSCS certification schemes.

16. ETB DEVOLVED RESPONSIBILITY PILOT – PAPER FROM ETBI AND QQI EXECUTIVE RESPONSE

16.1 ETB Devolved Responsibility Pilot – paper from ETBI and QQI Executive response

The Committee NOTED the update provided in respect of the Devolved Responsibility Pilot. The Committee considered the paper submitted by ETBI as well as the Executive's proposed response. The Committee agreed to approve the Executive's response to the proposal, including extension of the duration of the pilot project.