

PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (PAEC)

Thursday 9 April 2026

Note of the 84th meeting of the QQI Programmes and Awards Executive Committee held via Microsoft Teams, at 9.30am on **9 April 2026**.

Present:

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

In attendance:

Yvonne Agnew
Mairéad Boland
Paula Doyle
Karen Jones (PAOC observer)
Vivienne Keeley
Alex Keys
Wendy Mathews
Katherine Walsh

Apologies: Laura McNamee

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

It was agreed that Karen, as Registrar of National College of Ireland (NCI), would withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of item 5.6.1, concerning NCI.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 12 FEBRUARY 2026 (PAEC/M83)

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 12 February 2026

APPROVED for publication on the QQI website.

4.2 Report for the Board on the PAEC meeting of 12 February 2026

Noted.

5. PROGRAMME VALIDATION APPLICATIONS

5.1 Further Education and Training (FET) Programmes

5.1.1 A Named Provider

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented.
The Committee PAUSED consideration of the programme.

5.1.2 SQT Training Limited

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed reports 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.

- 5.1.2.1 PG26617, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Train the Trainer for Industry, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

5.1.3 Cenit College

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

5.1.4 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.

- 5.1.4.1 PG26574, Digital Marketing, Level 5, Minor Award, 15 FET credits
- 5.1.4.2 PG26576, Public Relations, Level 5, Minor Award, 15 FET credits
- 5.1.4.3 PG26579, Event Management, Level 6, Minor Award, 15 FET credits,

5.1.5 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.

- 5.1.5.1 PG26575, Administration Practice, Level 6, Minor Award, 15 FET credits
- 5.1.5.2 PG26577, Human Resources Management, Level 6, Minor Award, 15 FET credits
- 5.1.5.3 PG26578, Legal Practice and Procedures, Level 5, Minor Award, 15 FET credits

5.1.6 Cavan & Monaghan Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed reports 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.

5.1.6.1 PG26414, Level 3 Specific Purpose Certificate in Artificial Intelligence for Beginners, Level 3, Special Purpose Award, 5 credits

5.1.7 A Named Provider

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and reports presented. The Committee PAUSED consideration of the programmes.

5.1.8 A Named Provider

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and reports presented. The Committee PAUSED consideration of the programmes.

5.1.9 Kildare & Wicklow Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed reports 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.

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

5.1.10 Cork Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed reports 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.

5.1.10.1 PG26706, Social Policy, Level 5, 15 FET credits, Minor Award

5.1.11 Cork 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.

5.1.11.1 PG26603, Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing Processes, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

5.1.11.2 PG26604, Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Contamination Control in Cleanrooms, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

5.1.12 Galway & Roscommon Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed reports 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.

5.1.12.1 PG26424, Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Sustainable Finance for Business, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 5 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 Learning & Skills Development for Business,

Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET Credits

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

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

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

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. Based on the curriculum originally validated for Dublin & Dun Laoghaire ETB in November 2025, the Committee APPROVED the validation of the above programmes at the following ETBs:

Cork Education and Training Board

PG26811, PG26813, PG26814, PG26815

Waterford & Wexford Education and Training Board

PG26806, PG26823, PG26824, PG26825

Louth & Meath Education and Training Board

PG26819, PG26820, PG26821, PG26822

Longford & Westmeath Education and Training Board

PG26817, PG26844, PG26845, PG26846

Mayo, Sligo & Leitrim Education and Training Board

PG26826, PG26827, PG26828, PG26829

Limerick & Clare Education and Training Board

PG26830, PG26831, PG26832, PG26833

5.2.2 Level 4 Specific Purpose Certificate in Introduction to Artificial Intelligence,

Level 4, 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 ETBs:

City of Dublin Education and Training Board PG26816

Kilkenny & Carlow Education and Training Board PG26847

5.2.3 Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Wind Energy with Immersive Technologies,

Level 5, 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:

City of Dublin Education and Training Board

PG26818

5.2.4 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

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

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

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

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

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. Based on the curriculum originally validated for Louth & Meath ETB in July 2022, the Committee APPROVED the validation of the above programmes at the following ETB:

City of Dublin Education and Training Board

PG26834, PG26836, PG26837, PG26838, PG26839, PG26840

5.2.5 Door Security Skills, Level 4, Special Purpose Award. 10 FET credits, CAS

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. Based on the curriculum originally validated for Louth & Meath ETB in July 2023, the Committee APPROVED the validation of the above programme at the following ETB:

Kilkenny & Carlow Education and Training Board PG26867

5.2.6 Security Guarding Skills, Level 4, Special Purpose Award. 10 FET credits, CAS

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. Based on the curriculum originally validated for Louth & Meath ETB in July 2023, the Committee APPROVED the validation of the above programme at the following ETB:

Kilkenny & Carlow Education and Training Board PG26866

5.2.7 Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Enhancing Productivity with AI, Level 5, 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 ETB:

Kilkenny & Carlow Education and Training Board PG26848

5.2.8 Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Corporate Sustainability Reporting, Level 6, 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 ETB:

Kilkenny & Carlow Education and Training Board PG26849

5.2.9 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 NOTED the documentation circulated. Based on the curriculum originally validated for Cavan & Monaghan ETB in July 2024, the Committee APPROVED the validation of the above programmes at the following ETB:

Tipperary Education and Training Board

PG26856, PG26857, PG26858, PG26859

5.2.10 Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Volunteering For Community Engagement, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET Credits

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

Kilkenny & Carlow Education and Training Board

PG26862

The Committee NOTED the importance of ensuring ETBs applying for differential validation of micro qualification skills to advance programmes are basing the application on the current version of the programme.

5.3 Higher Education and Training Programmes – Programme Validation

5.3.1 Griffith College

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

- 5.3.1.1 PG26627, Certificate in Utilising Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for Asset Management, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 5 Credits
- 5.3.1.2 PG26628, Certificate in Asset Management Digitalisation, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 5 Credits

5.4 Devolution of Responsibility for Validation Sub-Processes

5.4.1 Hibernia College

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and APPROVED Hibernia College's application for devolution of responsibility for validation sub-processes.

5.4.2 Limerick and Clare Education & Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and APPROVED Limerick and Clare Education & Training Board's application for devolution of responsibility for validation sub-processes.

5.5 Validation of Research Degree Programmes

No Business

5.6 Apprenticeship Programmes

5.6.1 National College of Ireland

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated 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 Certificate of Validation.

5.6.1.1 PG26560, Higher Diploma in Business in International Financial Services, Level 8, Major Award, 90 Credits

5.6.2 Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated 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 Certificate of Validation.

5.6.2.1 PG26356, Advanced Certificate in Barbering, Level 6, Major Award, 220 FET Credits

5.6.3 Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated 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 Certificate of Validation.

5.6.3.1 PG26483, Advanced Certificate in Business and Operations, Level 6, Major Award, 160 FET Credits

5.6.4 Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated 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 Certificate of Validation.

5.6.4.1 PG26514, Advanced Certificate in Beauty Therapy, Level 6, Major Award, 255 FET Credits

6. REVALIDATION

6.1 Application for Extension of Validation Period

6.1.1 The Open Training College

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated as item **6.1.1.1** and the request for a one-year extension of validation of the programme. The rationale for this request is to allow time for the Provider to obtain greater clarity from key stakeholders prior to revalidation. The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programme for one year on the basis that the Open Training College must make preparations for a revalidation application.

6.1.1.1 PG24073, Certificate in Patient Safety Complaints Advocacy, Special Purpose Award, Level 7, 20 Credits

6.1.2 City College Dublin (formerly City Education Group)

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated in respect of item **6.1.2.1** and the request for a one year extension of validation for the programmes.

The rationale for this request is to allow sufficient time to complete new programme validation applications, with the programme learning outcomes mapped to the Early Learning and Care (ELC) Professional Award-type Descriptors (PATD), to address both QQI and Qualifications Advisory Board (QAB) requirements.

The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programmes for one year, with last intake to August 2027.

- 6.1.2.1 PG24277, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Early Childhood Education & Care, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits
- PG24278, Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education & Care, Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits
- PG24279, Higher Certificate in Arts in Early Childhood Education & Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated in respect of item **6.1.2.2** and the request from City College Dublin for a one year extension of validation. The rationale for this request references QQI's requirement for the revalidated programme to be mapped to the revised *Integrated Award Standards for Business at NFQ Levels 5-9 (June 2024)*. The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the following programme for one year, with last intake to August 2027.

- 6.1.2.2 PG24319, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business Studies, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

6.2 Application for Revalidation

6.2.1 Dublin Business School (DBS)

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and detailed reports presented.

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 PG26612, Master of Science in Human Resource Management, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
- PG26613, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Human Resource Management, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits *(Exit Award)*
- PG26614, Certificate in Human Resource Management, Level 9, Minor Award, 30 Credits *(Exit Award)*
- 6.2.1.2 PG26632, Master of Science in Digital Marketing and Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
- PG26633, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Digital Marketing and Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits *(Exit Award)*

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 and NOTED the need for engagement with the regulatory body.

6.2.1.3 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*)

The Committee APPROVED the revalidation of the following programmes for two years, subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificate of Validation and NOTED the need for engagement with the regulatory body.

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

6.3 Application for Modification of Validated Programmes

6.3.1 Kildare & Wicklow Education and Training Board

Dublin & Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and requests from two ETBs in relation to the programmes originally validated for Louth & Meath ETB in July 2022.

The modification request relates to revisions to the equipment list, brief synopsis and module descriptors. The proposed modifications were agreed following a lengthy consultation with SOLAS, industry experts and KUKA (global automation corporation).

The Committee APPROVED the modifications to the following programmes for delivery by the two ETBs:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kildare & Wicklow Education and Training Board

PG26618, PG26646, PG26651, PG26652, PG26655, PG26656

Dublin & Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board

PG25714, PG25715, PG25716, PG25717, PG25718, PG25719

6.3.2 Farm Ed

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated in respect of the programmes below.

The modification request relates to increases of the maximum learner intake numbers.

The Committee APPROVED the modifications to the following programmes:

PG25760, Agriculture, Level 5, CAS Major Award, 120 Credits

PG25771, Farming, Level 6, CAS Special Purpose Award, 50 Credits

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 post Reengagement

7.2.1 Special Schools

The Committee NOTED the update provided, APPROVED the report, and AGREED that the final condition had been satisfied.

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 City of Dublin FET College

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED, with conditions, City of Dublin FET College's application to extend its current scope of provision to include delivery of blended learning, fully online, Synchronous only, National programmes.

The Committee also NOTED the evidence addressing the conditions of approval and AGREED that the conditions had been satisfied.

The Committee NOTED the requirement for formal confirmation of provider name changes prior to updating QQI records.

9.2 Cavan and Monaghan ETB

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED, with conditions, Cavan and Monaghan ETB's application to extend its current scope of provision to include Blended Learning, Synchronous and Asynchronous delivery.

9.3 Irish Deaf Society

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED, with conditions, Irish Deaf Society's application to extend its current scope of provision to Fully Online – Synchronous and Asynchronous, National delivery.

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.

9.6 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

9.7 Cenit College

The Committee NOTED the request for extension of Scope to include offering special purpose awards, as per Item 5.1.3. The Committee APPROVED Cenit College'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

No Business

15. UPDATE FROM SOLAS

15.1 SOLAS Update Report

The Committee NOTED the documentation provided.

The Committee noted the SOLAS update on the revalidation of the crafts of Electrical Instrumentation and Instrumentation; and the pilot development of a theory assessment question bank for Electrical Craft; including timelines and associated transition planning.

The Committee acknowledged the positive progress and engagement with TUA (Technological University Association), South East Technological University (SETU), collaborating providers and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs).

16. CERTIFICATION OF PROGRAMMES LEADING TO FET MICROQUALIFICATIONS (PAPER)

16.1 Paper: CERTIFICATION - FET micro-qualification programmes 2021-2026

The Committee NOTED the update provided in respect of certification of FET micro-qualifications and referred the matter for further discussion within QQI.