

PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (PAEC)

Minutes of the 86th meeting of the QQI Programmes and Awards Executive Committee held via Microsoft Teams, at 9.30am on 9 July 2026.

Present:

Andrea Durnin
Barbara Kelly (Deputy Chair)
Roisín Morris-Drennan
Jennifer Osborne
Dr. Lynn Ramsey (Chair)

In attendance:

Andrew Allen
Mairéad Boland
Kathleen Duignan
Vivienne Keeley
Alex Keys
Alan McGrath (PAOC observer)
Laura McNamee
Wendy Mathews
Katherine Walsh

Apologies: Órla Barry, Dr. Jim Murray, Paula Doyle, Orla Lynch, Yvonne Agnew

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Chair confirmed there were no potential conflicts of interest in relation to the items of business before the Committee. The Committee welcomed an observer from the Programme and Awards Oversight Committee (PAOC), Alan McGrath, and welcomed Jennifer to her first meeting, marking her official appointment to PAEC. The Chair communicated in advance the need to leave the meeting during proceedings and noted that she would deputise to Barbara Kelly the role of Chair from that time.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 11 June 2026 (PAEC/M85)

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 11 June 2026

APPROVED for publication on the QQI website.

4.2 Report for the Board on the PAEC meeting of 11 June 2026

Noted.

5. PROGRAMME VALIDATION APPLICATIONS

5.1 Further Education and Training (FET) Programmes

Programmes Approved

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and 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:

Forus Training

PG26167, Agriculture, Level 5, 120 FET credits, Major Award

PG26495, Farming, Level 6, 50 FET credits, Special Purpose Award

Kilkenny and Carlow ETB

PG26663, Level 5 Certificate in Thatching, Level 5, 120 FET Credits, Major Award

PG26671, Certificate in Health and Safety for Craft and Site Work, Level 5, 5 FE Credits, Minor Award

PG26672, Certificate in Thatching: Context and Project Planning, Level 5, 15 FE Credits, Minor Award

PG26673, Certificate in Thatching with Reed: New Roof, Level 5, 20 FE Credits, Minor Award

PG26674, Certificate in Thatching with Straw: New Roof, Level 5, 20 FE Credits, Minor Award

PG26675, Certificate in Rethatching with Reed, Level 5, 15 FE Credits, Minor Award

PG26676, Certificate in Rethatching with Straw, Level 5, 15 FE Credits, Minor Award

PG26677, Certificate in Thatching: Business Skills, Level 5, 15 FE Credits, Minor Award

PG26678, Certificate in Thatching Practice, Level 5, 15 FE Credits, Minor Award

Cork ETB

PG26426, Level 5 Certificate in PE Studies with Sport, Level 5, 120 FET Credits, Major Award

PG26429, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Coach Education, Level 5, 20 FET, Special Purpose Award

PG26619 Level 5 Certificate in Sports Coaching and Athletic Performance, Level 5, 120 FET credits, Major Award

PG26621 Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Coach Education, Level 5, 20 FET Credits, Special Purpose Award

Waterford and Wexford ETB

PG26855, Outdoor Recreation, Level 3, 5 FET credits, Special Purpose Award

Other Considerations

The Committee NOTED the information provided and PAUSED consideration of programmes from a Named Provider.

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

As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of Education and Training Board (ETB) programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programmes listed below presented for validation are based on a curriculum originally validated at a lead 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:

Level 3 Specific Purpose Certificate in Artificial Intelligence for Beginners, Level 3, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits, PDAS

Originally validated for Cavan and Monaghan ETB in April 2026 and validated for:

Donegal ETB PG26965

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

Originally validated for Dublin and Dun Laoghaire ETB in February 2026 and validated for:

Limerick and Clare ETB PG26949, PG26951, PG26952, PG26953, PG26954

City of Dublin ETB PG26986, PG26987, PG26988, PG26989, PG26990

Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Mentorship Practice, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, FET Credits, PDAS

Originally validated for Mayo Sligo and Leitrim ETB in December 2022 and validated for:

Kerry ETB PG26966

Level 5 Certificate in Education Studies – Primary Pathway, Level 5, Major Award, 120 FET Credits, PDAS

Originally validated for Tipperary ETB in June 2026 and validated for:

Limerick and Clare ETB PG26993

5.3 Higher Education and Training Programmes – Programme Validation

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and 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 Certificates of Validation:

The Open Training College

PG26718, Certificate in Human Service Staff and Resource Management, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 20 Credits

PG26670, Certificate in Supported Employment, Level 7, Special Purpose Award, 20 Credits

Consortium of Centres of Nursing and Midwifery Education (CCNME)

PG26661, Certificate in Care of Deteriorating, Ill or Injured Child and Young Person, Level 8, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and 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:

Dublin Business School

PG26851, Master of Science in Digital Leadership, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG26852, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Digital Leadership, Level 9, Major Award, 60 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:

Dublin and Dun Laoghaire ETB

Cavan and Monaghan ETB

5.5 Validation of Research Degree Programmes

No Business

5.6 Apprenticeship Programmes

City of Dublin ETB

The Committee NOTED the documentation and discussed professional recognition of the programme. 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:

PG26664, Higher Certificate in Dental Nursing, Major Award, Level 6, 120 Credits

6. REVALIDATION

6.1 Application for Extension of Validation Period

6.1.1 Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB

PG24383, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Digital Assisted Eco Driving, Special Purpose Award, Level 5, 10 FET Credits

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the request for a one-year extension from **Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB**. The rationale for this request is to provide continuity of provision during the revalidation process and respond to industry demand. The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programme for one year, with last intake to April 2027.

6.1.2 Five ETBs

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, Development and Trends, Level 6, Minor Award, 10 FET credits, PDAS

The Committee NOTED the request from five ETBs, to extend the last intake to align with lead provider, Louth and Meath ETB, granted a two-year extension at the last PAEC meeting. The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programmes for two years for the following:

Limerick and Clare ETB

PG25313, PG25527, PG25528, PG25529, PG25590, PG25531

Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB

PG25595, PG25597, PG25599, PG25601, PG25602, PG25603

Waterford and Wexford ETB PG25657, PG25658, PG25659, PG25660, PG25661, PG25662

Kildare and Wicklow ETB

PG26618, PG26646, PG26651, PG26652, PG26655, PG26656

Longford Westmeath ETB

PG26869, PG26879, PG26880, PG26881, PG26882, PG26684

6.1.3 Dublin and Dun Laoghaire ETB and Partner Providers

PG24595, Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Major Award, Level 6, 120 FET Credits

PG24596, Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Major Award, Level 6, 120 FET Credits

The Committee NOTED the request for a one-year extension to align with the lead provider, DDLETB. The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programmes for one year for the following providers:

- **City of Dublin ETB**, PG 24622, PG24613
- **Tipperary ETB**, PG24619, PG24585
- **Waterford and Wexford ETB**, PG24591, PG24589
- **Laois and Offaly ETB**, PG24617, PG24590
- **Donegal ETB**, PG24615, PG24593
- **Cavan and Monaghan ETB**, PG24600, PG24597
- **Limerick and Clare ETB**, PG24604, PG24599
- **Kilkenny and Carlow ETB**, PG24602, PG24601
- **Galway and Roscommon ETB**, PG24614, PG24603
- **Kildare and Wicklow ETB**, PG24611, PG24605
- **Louth and Meath ETB**, PG24616, PG24607
- **Kerry ETB**, PG24627, PG24626
- **Moate Business College**, PG25228, PG25219
- **Jesus and Mary Secondary School**, PG25230, PG25224
- **An Cósán**, PG25487, PG25483
- **Longford Women's Link**, PG25486, PG25484

In light of recurring discussions, at this and previous meetings, the Committee AGREED to devolve, to the Executive, decision-making in respect of any subsequent differential validation applications from other ETBs relating to the same modification, or extension, of a shared ETB curriculum previously considered by the Committee.

6.2 Application for Revalidation

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and 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:

Griffith College Dublin

PG26942, Diploma in Legal Studies and Practice, Special Purpose Award, Level 7, 60 credits
PG26940, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Game Design and Development, Major Award, Level 8, 180 Credits
PG26941, Certificate in Game Design and Development, Minor Award, Level 6, 60 Credits

Dublin Business School

PG26737, Master of Science in Data Analytics, Major Award, Level 9, 90 Credits
PG26738, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Data Analytics, Major Award, Level 9, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)

National College of Ireland

PG26970, Master of Science in Cloud Computing, Major Award, Level 9, 90 Credits
PG26971, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Cloud Computing, Major Award, Level 9, 60 Credits
PG26972, Higher Diploma in Science in Data Analytics with Artificial Intelligence, Major Award, Level 8, 60 Credits
PG26980, Certificate in Data Analytics, Special Purpose Award, Level 8, 25 Credits
PG26919, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Early Childhood Education and Care, Major Award, Level 8, 240 Credits
PG26920, Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education and Care, Major Award, Level 7, 180 Credits (*Exit Award*)
PG26921, Higher Certificate in Arts in Early Childhood Education and Care, Major Award, Level 6, 120 Credits (*Exit Award*)
PG26922, Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care, Minor Award, Level 6, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)
PG26923, Certificate in Curriculum and Pedagogical Practice in Early Childhood Education and Care – Home-Based Environment, Special Purpose Award, Level 6, 20 Credits
PG26924, Certificate in Leadership and Governance in Early Childhood Education and Care - Home-Based Environments, Special Purpose Award, Level 7, 10 Credits

6.3 Application for Modification of Validated Programmes

6.3.1 Farm Ed

The Committee NOTED the request to increase intake numbers and rationale provided. The Committee APPROVED the modification to 2027 to allow additional intakes to the following programmes in September 2026:

PG25760, Agriculture, Level 5, CAS Major Award, 120 Credits
PG24630, Farming, Level 6, CAS Special Purpose Award, 50 Credits

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

Kildare and Wicklow ETB

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and update provided in respect of the following programme:

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

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

No Business

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 Forus Training

The Committee NOTED the request for extension of Scope to include delivery provision of ISCED 08.1.1 (Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary) in their approved disciplines as per Item 5.1.1. 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/VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL OF PROVIDER QA APPROVAL

No Business

15. UPDATES ON PROVIDERS

15.1 Update on a provider

The Committee NOTED the update.

16. OTHER MATTERS

16.1 Proposal to facilitate a proportionate, accelerated approach to validation of CAS programmes/modules by ETBs

The Committee APPROVED the proposal and agreed to devolve to the EXECUTIVE decision-making on such matters.