

Quality and Qualifications Ireland

Note of the eighty-eighth Meeting of the Authority (The Board) which took place on Friday, 12 June 2026 at 10:30 a.m. in the Boardroom, QQI Offices, 26/27 Denzille Lane, Dublin 2.

Present: Prof. Irene Sheridan (Chairperson)
Dr. Lynn Ramsey (Chief Executive)
Ms. Cliona Curley (Secretary)
Ms. Marianne Doyle
Dr. Sean Duignan (attended via MS Teams, Item 1)
Dr. Sharon Feeney
Mr. Kevin McStravock (attended via MS Teams)
Ms. Anne Naughton (attended via MS Teams, Items 1-11)
Ms. Maria Ward

Apologies: Mr. Blake Hodkinson
Ms. Emma Muldoon Ryan

In attendance: Ms. Caitríona Lawless (Recording Secretary)
Mr. Liam Butler (Item 11)
Ms. Louise Kelly (Item 12)
Mr. Keith Moynes (Item 1)
Dr. Anna Murphy (Item 12)

INTRODUCTION

The Chairperson welcomed Members to the meeting.

The Board agreed that the agenda for the meeting was acceptable and adopted same.

1. PRESENTATION BY MR. KEITH MOYNES, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE (DFHERIS)

Following an invitation from the Board, Keith Moynes, Assistant Secretary, Higher Education – Policy Division at DFHERIS attended the meeting to update the Board on current priorities for and developments at the Department. The discussion was followed by a questions and answers session.

The Board noted that the Department would soon be publishing its Tertiary Education Strategy and noted the Department’s intention to organise a meeting of Chairpersons and Chief Executives of all the agencies under its aegis to discuss how best to advance the strategy.

The Board noted an update on the progression of the partnership between Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT) and Queen’s University, Belfast.

The Chairperson and the Chief Executive thanked Mr. Moynes for his time and looked forward to continuing the close engagement with the Department.

2. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Board noted that no conflicts of interest were declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS

The **Minutes of the QQI Board Meetings** held on 24 April and 26 May 2026 were **confirmed** and signed.

4. NOTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS

The Board **approved** the **Notes of the Meetings of 24 April and 26 May 2026** for publication on the QQI website.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Board noted the **Action Tracker**.

5.1 Action Tracker

The Board noted the updated Action Tracker.

6. CEO REPORT

The Board noted the **CEO Report**.

6.1 CEO Report

The Chief Executive provided a verbal update on a number of key developments in addition to the circulated report. The Board noted that the Chief Executive would be attending several of the upcoming Quality Dialogue meetings (QDMs). The Executive confirmed that it was still the intention to further explore at these meetings the issues which had arisen with learner record systems which the Executive had briefed the Board on at its April meeting.

Assessment

The Board noted an update on the next phase of planned research to support QQI's tertiary assessment infrastructure.

The Board noted that research work on the full data set of FET Provider Quality Reports (PQRs) was advancing and planning on communications and related workshops was underway.

Following a query from a Board Member, the Executive confirmed that work is progressing on a research roadmap. It was expected that a number of meetings with SLT would take place over the coming months with a view to finalising the roadmap in September.

Learner Records Systems

The Board noted a brief verbal update provided by the Executive. The Board noted that the Executive was waiting until further information had been gathered before coming to any conclusions on the matter.

European Degree Labelling

The Board noted that members had been invited to attend a European Degree Label Technical Workshop in the Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Dún Laoghaire on 8 July.

Appointments to QQI Committees

The Board noted that members were requested to forward any suitable suggestions for nominations to QQI Committees to the Executive.

7. STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Board noted documents related to **Strategic Planning**.

7.1 Corporate Plan 2026

The Board noted a progress report covering Quarter 2 of the Corporate Plan 2026. The Board noted that of the three items listed for delivery in Quarter 2, two had now been extended for delivery in Quarter 3.

The Board noted that the SLT had approved the updated Customer Charter and the Executive undertook to circulate the Charter to members once final design work was completed.

7.2 Annual Report 2025

The Board noted the final draft report amended following earlier consideration and inclusion of feedback from members.

The Board **approved** the Annual Report 2025 for submission to the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science by 30 June 2026 as required by the 2012 Act.

The Board discussed possible options for the 2026 Annual Report.

7.3 EU Presidency Conference

The Board noted an update on the conference QQI would host as part of Ireland's 2026 Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the supporting programme of events. The Chief Executive confirmed that Board members would be invited to attend the main conference event on 13 October.

8. ENGAGEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

The Board noted a verbal update on the **Amended Legislation Programme**.

8.1 Amended Legislation Programme (ALP)

The Board noted a verbal update on recent developments.

TrustEd Ireland

The Executive briefed the Board on developments since the last meeting in relation to both the TrustEd Ireland process and the Interim List of Eligible Providers (ILEP).

The Board noted that on foot of the decisions taken by the Board at its meeting of 26 May, the Executive had sought and was awaiting Ministerial approval for the governance changes agreed.

The Board noted that the Executive had informed the Audit and Risk Committee on its new functions at its meeting of 29 May.

9. **GOVERNANCE**

The Board noted documents related to **Governance**.

9.1 Terms of Reference (ToR)/Schedule of Reserved Functions

The Board noted draft Terms of Reference for the Board which were developed based on the template contained in the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. To date the Board had operated under its Schedule of Reserved Functions supported by its Protocols (Code of Practice) for Board meetings, a recent internal audit on corporate governance had recommended the inclusion of Terms of Reference for the Board to further support its operations.

The Board **approved** the Terms of Reference for the Board subject to a small number of minor edits. The Board noted its Schedule of Reserved Functions.

The Board noted that the Terms of Reference would be reviewed by the Board on an annual basis similar to the Schedule of Reserved Functions.

9.2 Committee Members/Appointments

The Board **approved** the appointment of Michael Hannon and Sorchá Uí Chonnachtaigh to the Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee (PAOC). The Board **approved** the appointment of Blake Hodgkinson, Board member, to the PAOC replacing Maria Ward who was recently appointed to the Audit and Risk Committee.

The Board **approved** the reappointment of Marianne Doyle to the Audit and Risk Committee for a further three-year term as permitted under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies or to the completion of her membership term on the Board, whichever is the sooner.

The Board also noted the one-year extension to the terms of Andrea Durnin and Órla Barry on the Programmes and Awards Executive Committee.

10. **BOARD MEETS WITHOUT THE EXECUTIVE PRESENT**

The Board considered some of the matters raised in the discussion with the Assistant Secretary and other current issues.

11. **BUDGET AND FINANCE**

The Board noted documents related to **Budget and Finance**.

11.1 Management Accounts

The Board noted the Management Accounts for the three-months to 31 March 2026. The Senior Manager, Finance and Procurement confirmed that there was nothing currently to give rise for concern.

11.2 Disposal of Fixed Assets

The Board **approved** the disposal of fixed assets as set out in the document provided.

11.3 ICT Contract Resources

This item was taken under Item 12 below.

11.4 Draft Budget 2027

The Board noted an outline draft Budget for 2027. The Board discussed areas which may impact the organisation's finances in 2027.

The Board noted that the matters would also be discussed under the risk item later at this meeting. The Board noted that discussions on the matter would continue with the Department.

12. **AUDIT AND RISK**

The Board noted documents related to **Audit and Risk**.

The Board noted a verbal update on the meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee which took place on 29 May 2026.

It was noted that the Committee had received an update on the Global Internal Audit Standards.

The Board noted that the organisation's Internal Controls Policy was currently being reviewed by the Executive. An updated version would be presented to the Board for consideration at a future meeting.

The Executive confirmed that the Audit and Risk Committee had noted the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy which had recently been approved by the Board and the Executive was preparing to tender for AI training which would include provision for the Board.

12.1 Risk Management

The Board noted an update provided by the Chief Risk Officer (CRO) on a number of areas which relate to new or growing areas of concern or risk.

The Board noted that a desktop audit of disaster recovery was scheduled for Quarter 3.

It was noted that staff had been briefed on the new Responsible AI Use Policy and a session on same had also been incorporated into the agenda for a recent staff day.

12.2 ICT Security

The Senior Manager, ICT provided an update on ICT security as at Quarter 2, 2026. The Board noted that a general review of ICT policies was underway. The Board was briefed on a recent merger of HEAnet and EduCampus, and the newly formed Aseria which is continuing to provide shared ICT services across Ireland's education and research sector. The new entity was also offering some additional benefits funded by DFHERIS which were now available to QQI. These benefits included additional pen testing and vulnerability scanning and a review of existing security policies, the latter which the Executive is planning to avail of to assist with the review of ICT policies outlined above. An update on continuing security training for staff and other ongoing work and initiatives was also provided.

The Board welcomed the continued steps taken in the area of ICT security.

12.3 ICT Contract Resources

The Senior Manager, ICT outlined the proposals for the next round of ICT contract resources and the strategic benefits of the work proposed.

The Board noted the proposals outlined and **approved**

- the procurement of contracts for ICT contract resources for six months (July-December 2026) as outlined in the proposal submitted, in accordance with the QQI Purchasing and Procurement Policy and subject to contract;
- a one-year extension to the ICT contractor framework to support continuity of critical ICT services;
- additional contract resources from July to December 2026 as per the proposal submitted.

The Board noted the request for a dedicated QQI business/project resource to support delivery, decision making, requirements clarification and business readiness. The Board also noted the proposed work on technical modernisation and database migration project.

The Board noted that three meetings had been held to date with the SLT to discuss the project.

12.4 Data Protection

The Board noted a verbal update on Data Protection to Quarter 2, 2026.

12.5 Minutes of Audit and Risk Committee

The Board noted the Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 13 April 2026.

13. ITEMS FOR NOTING

The Board noted the **Items for Noting**.

13.1 Focus on Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee (PAOC)

The Board noted a verbal update provided by the Chair of the Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee.

13.2 Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee

The Board noted the report of the meeting of the Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee held on 13 December 2024.

The Board also noted the Annual Report of the PAOC for 2024.

13.3 Rolling Board Agenda

The Board noted an update on the Rolling Board Agenda for 2026.

14. ORGANISATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

The Board noted documents related to **Organisation and Human Resources**.

14.1 Human Resources

The Board noted an update on Human Resources.

The Board noted, following the nominations outlined at the April Board meeting, that QQI had been awarded the Keep Well Mark Award for Company of the Year (SME) for the second year running. The Board noted that work had progressed on revisions to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) policy which was expected to be presented to the Board for consideration later this year.

14.2 Facilities

The Board noted an update on the upgrades to the building's heating system.

15. **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board noted documents related to **Communications**.

15.1 Media Mentions

The Board noted media mentions and social media statistics covering the period 8 April – 22 May 2026.

16. **DRAFT BOARD AGENDA**

The Board noted the **Draft September 2026 Board Agenda**.

The Chairperson updated the Executive on the Board's discussions during the earlier closed session. Following the discussion with Keith Moynes under Item 1, the Board asked if the Assistant Secretary at the Department with responsibility for Further Education, Apprenticeships and Skills, could be invited to the September meeting to update the Board on Apprenticeships and requested the Executive to defer the previously suggested presentation on Data Protection to a later date. The Executive undertook to check availability and make the necessary arrangements. The Board also suggested that the Assistant Secretary, Research, Innovation and EU/International at DFHERIS be invited to another meeting to provide a similar update on that area.

17. **NEXT MEETING**

The Board noted the next scheduled meeting would take place on Monday, 28 September 2026.

18. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

The Chairperson thanked everyone for their participation and contributions.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.