

Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee (PAOC)

Notes of meeting of 21st September 2017

Present: Barbara Brittingham (Chair); Mary Danagher; Anne Mangan; Paul Lyons; Maureen Conway; Liz Carroll; Peter Cullen (Key Executive)

Apologies: Ken Carroll; John Mulcahy

In attendance: Antoinette Beatty (QA - QQI)

1. Minutes of PAOC meeting 28th July 2017

The Minutes of the PAOC Incorporal meeting of 28th July 2017 were AGREED.

2. Negative decision taken by the PAEC on Programme Validation for confirmation or referral back to the PAEC

2.1(a) Ballyhoura Development CLG PG23021 - Healthcare Support, *Level 5*

The committee was given a brief outline of the process.

The fact that the provider had requested further time to amend the application was noted but, it was duly clarified that this was not possible. The provider was advised that if they would like to proceed with this programme, a new application would be required.

The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of this programme was considered and CONFIRMED.

2.1(b) **Bord Iascaigh Mhara**
PG22837 - Shellfish Processing Techniques, *Level 5*

The committee was given a brief outline of the process.

The reason why the programme took so long to progress through the validation process was clarified.

The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of this programme was considered and CONFIRMED.

2.1(c) **Chevron Training & Recruitment Ltd**
PG23353 - Palliative Care, *Level 5*

The committee was given a brief outline of the process.

The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of this programme was considered and CONFIRMED.

2.1(d) **Dublin Business School**
PG23208 Master of Science in Financial Technology (FinTech), *Level 9*
PG23209 Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Financial Technology (FinTech),
Level 9
PG23241 Certificate in Financial Technology (FinTech), *Level 9*
PG23175 Higher Diploma in Science in Financial Technology (FinTech), *Level 8*

The committee was given a brief outline of the process.

The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of these programmes was considered and CONFIRMED.

2.1(e) **National College of Ireland**
PG22805 Higher Certificate in Finance in Business, *Level 6*

The committee was given a brief outline of the process.

The committee noted that the process for this application had been paused for some time and the reasons behind this. The fact that the provider had, in the meantime, submitted a revised version of this programme, which was validated, was also made know to the committee.

The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of this programme was considered and CONFIRMED.

2.1(f) **Solas**

PG23190 Advanced Certificate Craft in Painting and Decorating, *Level 6*

The committee was given a brief outline of the process.

It was clarified that this application was processed along with applications for the validation of two other apprenticeship programmes:

The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of this programme was considered and CONFIRMED.

3. **Oral Report of PAOC representative at PAEC meeting of 4th September 2017**

As had previously been agreed, Paul Lyons represented the PAOC at the PAEC meeting of 4th September. Paul confirmed that he found the experience very informative and that it helped to give a better insight into the process of programme validation.

Specific points that Paul noted:

- The meeting was well conducted
- The diligence with which all applications were considered and the PAEC's subsequent agreement on what should be referred to the PAOC
- The amount of reading involved
- The absence of subjectivity and the degree of interpretation involved
- The ongoing contact between QQI and providers involved
- The templates and documents are fit for purpose

4. **Any Other Business**

A comment made during the meeting relating to comparability of recognition given by higher education institutions to the Higher Certificate and Advanced Certificate awards will be addressed and the committee will be updated, as appropriate.

A list of PAOC meetings for 2018 is to be forwarded to the committee. However, this cannot be done until the Board meetings for 2018 have been confirmed.

There was no further business and so, the meeting ended.