

PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (PAEC)

Thursday 25 April at 10am

via Microsoft Teams

Note of the 71st meeting of the QQI Programmes and Awards Executive Committee held via Microsoft Teams, at 10am on **25 April 2024**.

Present:

Dr Pádraig Walsh (Chairperson)
Ms Andrea Durnin
Ms Barbara Kelly
Dr Jim Murray
Dr John O'Connor
Ms Mary Grennan
Ms Órla Barry

In attendance:

Ms Therese Masterson
Mr Walter Balfe
Ms Laura McNamee
Ms Michelle Gallagher
Ms Yvonne Agnew
Ms Katherine Walsh
Ms Naomi Oldenburg

The Chairperson informed the Team that this was John O'Connor's final meeting as a member of the Committee. He thanked John for the significant contribution that he had made to Committee over several years.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Chairperson enquired and confirmed that there were no conflicts of interest in relation to any of the items of business before the Committee.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 7 FEBRUARY 2023

2.1 The Minutes of the PAEC Meeting held on 7 February 2024 were approved by the Committee.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Any matters arising were covered within agenda items and were discussed during the meeting.

4. NOTE OF THE MEETING, REPORT FOR THE BOARD, TERMS OF REFERENCE

4.1 Note of Meeting of 7 February 2024

The Committee APPROVED the Note of the PAEC Meeting of 7 February 2024 for publication on the QQI website.

4.2 Report for the Board on the PAEC meeting of 7 February 2024

The Committee NOTED the Report for the Board on the PAEC Meeting of 7 February 2024.

4.3 PAEC Terms of Reference

The Committee NOTED the revised Terms of Reference approved by the Board at its meeting on 20 February 2024.

5. PROGRAMME VALIDATION APPLICATIONS

5.1 Further Education and Training (FET) Programmes

5.1.1 Barrow Consultancy and Training Ltd

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report 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 Certificate of Validation:

- 5.1.1.1 PG25362, Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 FET Credits, *non-CAS*
- PG25363, Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 5, Major Award, 120 FET Credits, *non-CAS*

5.1.2 Children's Therapy Centre

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 Certificate of Validation:

- 5.1.2.1 PG25584, Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Play, Development, and the Early Years, Special Purpose Award, 30 FET Credits, *non-CAS*
- PG25606, Certificate in Play and Child Development, Level 6 Minor Award, 15 FET Credits *non – CAS*
- PG25607, Certificate in Play in the Early Years Environment, Level 6 Minor Award, 15 FET Credits *non – CAS*
- 5.1.2.2 PG25579, Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Therapeutic Play Practice, Special Purpose Award, 30 FET Credits, *non-CAS*
- PG25605, Certificate in Nature-Based Therapeutic Play, Level 6 Minor Award, 15 FET Credits *non – CAS*
- PG25614, Certificate in Play in Therapeutic Play Skills, Level 6 Minor Award, 15 FET Credits *non – CAS*

5.1.3 A Named Provider

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee agreed with the recommendation to REFUSE the validation of one programme of the named provider.

The decision to refuse validation will be referred to the Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee (PAOC) for confirmation or referral back to the PAEC.

5.1.4 Security Institute 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:

5.1.4.1 PG25762, Enforcement Procedures, Level 4, Specific Purpose Award, 10 FET Credits
CAS Award, Microcredential

5.1.5 College of Management and IT

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:

5.1.5.1 PG25671, Certificate in Child Developmental Psychology, Level 6, Minor Award, 20 FET Credits,
non-CAS

5.1.6 An Cosán

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:

5.1.6.1 PG25489, Care Skills, Level 5, Minor Award, 15 FET credits

5.1.7 Cavan and Monaghan ETB

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 Certificate of Validation:

5.1.7.1 PG25677, Level 1 Specific Purpose Certificate in English for Speakers of Other Languages 1,
Level 1, Special Purpose Award, 20 FET Credits, non-CAS
PG25678, Certificate in Speaking and Listening 1, Level 1, Minor Award, 10 FET Credits
PG25679, Certificate in Writing 1, Level 1, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits
PG25680, Certificate in Reading 1, Level 1, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits

5.1.7.2 PG25681, Level 2 Specific Purpose Certificate in English for Speakers of Other Languages 2,
Level 2, Special Purpose Award, 20 FET Credits, non-CAS
PG25682, Certificate in Speaking and Listening 2, Level 2, Minor Award, 10 FET Credits
PG25683, Certificate in Writing 2, Level 2, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits
PG25684, Certificate in Reading 2, Level 2, Minor Award, 5 FET Credits

5.1.8 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:

5.1.8.1 PG25561, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Wind Energy with Immersive Technologies, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits, *non-CAS*

5.1.9 Waterford and Wexford 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:

5.1.9.1 PG25649, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Restorative Practice for Professionals, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 10 FET Credits, *non-CAS*

5.1.10 Louth and Meath 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:

5.1.9.1 PG25737, Level 4 Specific Purpose Certificate in Barista Skills, Level 4, Special Purpose Award, 10 FET Credits, *non-CAS*

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

5.2.1 The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated 1. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programmes listed below were presented for validation to lead to the **Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Digital Assisted Eco Driving**. The programmes are based on a curriculum originally validated for *Waterford and Wexford, and Mayo, Kilkenny and Carlow, Sligo and Leitrim ETBs in April 2021*. Each was screened to ensure that there was only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Digital Assisted Eco Driving, Special Purpose Award (10 FET credits)

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- **Tipperary Education and Training Board PG25721**
- **Louth and Meath Education and Training Board PG25770**
- **Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board PG25772**

5.2.2 The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programme listed below was presented for validation to lead to the **Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Digital Assisted Eco Driving (Coach & Bus)**. The programmes are based on a curriculum originally validated for *Waterford and Wexford, and Mayo, Kilkenny and Carlow, Sligo and Leitrim ETBs in June 2022*. Each was screened to ensure that there is only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Digital Assisted Eco Driving (Coach & Bus), Special Purpose Award (10 FET Credits)

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- **Tipperary Education and Training Board** PG25738
- **Louth and Meath Education and Training Board** PG25753

5.2.3 The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programme listed below was presented for validation to lead to **Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Sustainable Supply Chain Procurement**. The programme is based on a curriculum originally validated for *Cavan and Monaghan ETB in July 2023*. It was screened to ensure that there is only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Sustainable Supply Chain Procurement, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits, non-CAS

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- **Louth and Meath Education and Training Board** PG25758
- **Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board** PG25775
- **Kerry Education and Training Board** PG25646
- **Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board** PG25848

5.2.4 The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programmes listed below was presented for validation to lead to **Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Lean Practice for Sustainable Business**. The programme is based on a curriculum originally validated for *Limerick and Clare ETB in July 2023*. They were screened to ensure that there is only variation from that curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Lean Practice for Sustainable Business, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 15 FET Credits

Certificate in Lean Principles for Sustainable Business, Level 5, Minor Award, 5 FET credits
Certificate in Lean Tools for Sustainable Business, Level 5, Minor Award, 10 FET credits

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- **Louth and Meath Education and Training Board** PG25752, PG25756, PG25757
- **Kerry Education and Training Board** PG25647, PG25669, PG25764
- **Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board** PG25778, PG25776, PG25777
- **Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board** PG24910, PG24919, PG24920
- **Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board** PG24907, 24909, 24913

- **Cork Education and Training Board** PG24903, PG24908, PG24911

5.2.5 The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programmes listed below were presented for validation to lead to the **Level 4 Specific Purpose Certificate in Cleaning Skills**. The programmes are based on a curriculum originally validated for *validated for Cork ETB in April 2021*. They were screened to ensure that there is only variation from the curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 4 Specific Purpose Certificate in Cleaning Skills, Level 4, Special Purpose Award, 10 FET Credits

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- **Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board** PG25773

5.2.6 The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programmes listed below were presented for validation to lead to **Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Mentorship Practice**. The programmes are based on a curriculum originally validated *Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB in December 2022*. They were screened to ensure that there is only variation from the curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Mentorship Practice, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 10 FET Credits

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

- **City of Dublin Education and Training Board** PG25692

5.2.7 The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programmes listed below were presented for validation to lead to the **Level 3 Specific Purpose Certificate in Learning to Support Primary School Children**. The programmes are based on a curriculum originally validated *Kilkenny and Carlow ETB in February 2023*. It was screened to ensure that there is only variation from the curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 3 Specific Purpose Certificate in Learning to Support Primary School Children, Level 3, Special Purpose Award, 25 FET credits

- Certificate in Supporting P/School Children: Learning, Minor Award (10 FET Credits)**
- Certificate in Supporting P/School Children: Literacy, Minor Award (5 FET Credits)**
- Certificate in Supporting P/School Children: Digital Lit, Minor Award (5 FET Credits)**
- Certificate in Supporting P/School Children: Maths, Minor Award (5 FET Credits)**

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- **Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board** PG25807, PG25808, PG25809, PG25810, PG25811

5.2.8 The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. As per the agreed procedure to facilitate differential validation of ETB programmes based on a shared curriculum, the programmes listed below were presented for validation to lead to the **Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in The Circular Economy in the Workplace**. The programme is based on a curriculum originally validated for *Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB in April 2023*. It was screened to ensure that there is only variation from the curriculum in provider-specific aspects.

Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in The Circular Economy in the Workplace, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits

The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

- **Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board PG25854**

5.3 Higher Education and Training Programmes – Programme Validation

5.3.1 SQT Training Limited

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report 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 Certificate of Validation:

5.3.1.1 PG25581, Certificate in Process Validation for Medical Device Manufacturing, Level 7, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits – Microcredential

5.3.2 Dublin Business School

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:

5.3.2.1 PG25451, Master of Science in Trading and Investing, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
PG25452, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Trading and Investing, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)

5.4 Devolution of Responsibility for Validation Sub-Processes

No Business

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 Independent College

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. Independent College requested a one-year extension of validation for the following programmes:

- 6.1.1.1 PG24130, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Marketing, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits
- PG24131, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accounting and Finance, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

The rationale for this request was as follows:

Independent College wished to extend the duration of the above programmes by one year to align the review and revalidation with *PG24339 Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business Studies*.

The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programme above to August 2025.

6.1.2 The Open Training College

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated 1. The Open Training College requested a one-year extension of validation for the following programmes:

- 6.1.2.1 PG24094, Bachelor of Arts in Social Care, Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits to *31 August 2025*
- PG24096, Higher Certificate in Arts in Social Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits (*exit only*) to *31 August 2025*
- PG23919, Certificate in Applied Management (Human Services), Level 6, Minor Award, 60 Credits to *31 August 2024*
- PG23915, Certificate in Supported Employment, Level 7, Special Purpose Award, 20 Credits to *31 August 2025*
- PG24073, Certificate in Patient Safety Complaints Advocacy, Level 7, Special Purpose Award, 20 Credits to *30 April 2025*

The rationale for this request was as follows:

A first extension request for one year was being sought for PG24094, Bachelor of Arts in Social Care (Level 7) and the embedded (exit only) programme PG24096, Higher Certificate in Arts in Social Care (Level 6) to align the validation period with the upcoming CORU regulatory body re-approval process.

A second extension request for one year is being sought for PG23919, Certificate in Applied Management (Human Services) (Level 6) as some proposed programmes have been submitted for microcredential validation based on modules from the principal programme.

Similarly, a first extension request is being sought for PG24073, Certificate in Patient Safety Complaints Advocacy (Level 7) and a second extension request is being sought for PG23915, Certificate in Supported Employment (Level 7) with the strategic aim to validate these programmes through micro-credential validation.

The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programmes as requested.

6.1.3 National College of Ireland (NCI)

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. NCI requested a one-year extension of validation for the following programmes:

- 6.1.3.1 PG23405, Higher Diploma in Financial Services Analytics, Level 8, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Apprenticeship*) to **1 September 2024**
- PG24571, Certificate in Leadership, Governance and change Management in Early Childhood Home Visiting, Level 7, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits to **30 June 2025**
- PG24572, Certificate in Curriculum and Pedagogical Practice for Early Childhood Home Visiting, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 20 Credits **30 June 2025**

The rationale for this request was as follows:

NCI wished to extend the duration of the PG23405 Higher Diploma in Financial Services Analytics (*Apprenticeship*) by one year to allow time to review emerging needs of the sector for skills development in the financial services technology area, informed by employer feedback and the June 2022 report entitled 'Financial Services in Ireland – Skills for the Future'. NCI are in discussions with the financial services Consortium Steering Group (CSG) to consider the current programme duration, structure, curriculum content and ECT credit weighting for the programme.

NCI, wish to extend the duration of PG24571, Certificate in Leadership, Governance and Change Management in Early Childhood Home Visiting and PG24572, Certificate in Curriculum and Pedagogical Practice for Early Childhood Home Visiting to align enrolment with the parent programme, PG24368 BA (Hons) in Early Childhood Education and Care which has its last intake in September 2024. NCI are currently preparing this programme for revalidation with the intention of a new intake in September 2025 and intends seeking validation of these two special purpose awards as embedded minor awards within the newly revalidated PG24368 BA (Hons) in Early Childhood Education and Care.

The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programmes as requested.

6.1.4 **Irish Payroll Association (IPASS)**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. Irish Payroll Association requested a one-year extension of validation for the following programme:

- 6.1.4.1 PG24080, Certificate in Payroll Techniques, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits

The rationale for this request was as follows:

IPASS indicated that, as it was recently acquired by the Bright Group (December 2023), IPASS staff were significantly occupied in the lead-up to the acquisition. An extension of one year on this programme would allow the new owners time to become more familiar with the business and make a more considered decision on future programme plans.

The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programmes to August 2025.

6.1.5 **Education and Training Boards – Shared Curriculum**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. ETBs requested a one-year extension of validation for the following programmes:

- 6.1.5.1 **Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board**

PG24118, Advanced Certificate in Agriculture, Major Award, Level 6, 120 FET Credits
PG24117, Certificate in Agriculture, Major Award, Level 5, 120 FET Credits
PG24119, Certificate in Farming, Major Award, Level 6, 50 FET Credits

Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board

PG24121, Advanced Certificate in Agriculture, Major Award, Level 6, 120 FET Credits
PG24120, Certificate in Agriculture, Major Award, Level 5, 120 FET Credits
PG24122, Certificate in Farming, Major Award, Level 6, 50 FET Credits

Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board

PG24126, Advanced Certificate in Agriculture, Major Award, Level 6, 120 FET Credits
PG24124, Certificate in Agriculture, Major Award, Level 5, 120 FET Credits
PG24125, Certificate in Farming, Major Award, Level 6, 50 FET Credits

The rationale for this request was as follows:

MSLETB, WWETB and GRTEB requested an extension for the programmes until September 2025 to avoid conflicting with QQI's Outline Action Plan for Review and Renewal of QQI Common Award Standards, which includes the Agriculture Awards Standards.

The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programmes to September 2025.

6.1.6 Dublin Business School

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. DBS requested a one-year extension of validation for the following programmes:

6.1.6.1 PG24188, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Counselling and Psychotherapy, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits

PG24190, Higher Certificate in Arts in Applied Social Studies, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits (*Exit Award*)

PG24185, Higher Diploma in Arts in Counselling and Psychotherapy, Level 8, Major Award, 60 Credits

PG24189, Master of Arts in Psychotherapy Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG24237, Master of Business Administration, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG24549, Master of Business Administration, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits (*Germany*)

PG24238, Postgraduate Diploma in Business, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)

PG24550, Postgraduate Diploma in Business, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*) (*Germany*)

PG24225, Master of Science in Management Practice, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG24226, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Management Practice, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)

PG24224, Higher Diploma in Science in Computing, Level 8, Major Award, 60 Credits

PG24230, Certificate in Information Technology, Level 8, Minor Award, 15 Credits (*Exit Award*)

PG24222, Master of Science in Information Systems with Computing, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG24223, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Information Systems with Computing, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)

PG24239, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

PG24869, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

PG24551, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits (*Germany*)

PG24066, Master of Arts in Addiction Studies, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG24067, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Addiction Studies, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)

PG24183, Master of Science in International Accounting and Finance, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG24184, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in International Accounting and Finance, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)

PG24049, Master of Science in Business Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG24864, Master of Science in Business Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits (*Czech Republic*)

PG24050, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Business Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)

PG24866, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Business Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*) (*Czech Republic*)

PG24214, Master of Science in Information and Library Management, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG24215, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Information and Library Management, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)

The rationale for this request was as follows:

- The extension for *Counselling and Psychotherapy* programmes was requested due to ongoing consultations with CORU and the sector regarding the setting of professional standards which may have an impact on the requirements for the programmes.
- DBS has begun the review and revalidation process for the *MSc in Business Analytics* suite, and *MSc in Information and Library Management* suites however due to various workload commitments with the production of the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) for DBS's upcoming institutional review, they were unable to assure themselves of the quality of the documentation for this evaluation in time for the review and were requesting an extension to allow the sufficient time for the revalidation process.
- The extension for all other programmes listed above were requested on the basis of the capacity of the institution due to volumes of programmes due for review in the 2023/24 academic year and the Institutional Review process, and to ensure that full due diligence can be carried out.

The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programmes to August 2025.

6.2 Applications for Revalidation

6.2.1 National College of Ireland

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED the revalidation of the following programme 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 PG25774, Higher Certificate in International Financial Services, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits

6.2.2 SOLAS

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. 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 PG25802, Advanced Certificate in Craft - Farriery, Level 6, Major Award, 240 FET Credits
PG25803, Advanced Certificate in Craft - Electronic Security Systems, Level 6, Major Award, 240 FET Credits (PAEC/A71/6.2.2.1) *[For Approval] Apprenticeship*

The Committee noted the following update:

In a recent meeting between QQI and the National Apprenticeship Office (NAO), it was agreed that a process to update Craft programme standards and assessments was a priority for the migration strategy. NAO agreed to provide direction and oversight to the process through a senior member of staff.

Meetings between QQI and Solas (December 2022 and Spring 2024) agreed on a process to rapidly address this issue.

Solas was directed to refresh, for each of 20 Crafts:

- Occupational Profile
- Programme learning outcomes (MIPLOs). Solas also to provide evidence of industry endorsement for MIPLOs.
- Assessment materials. Solas also to provide evidence of endorsement from experienced instructors / assessors for revised assessments.

QQI agreed to accept the applications for revalidation based on receipt of this material and to issue updated certificates of validation with new programme and award codes.

Process Implementation

Solas has prepared:

- a schedule (Appendix 1 attached) of 20 programmes which will go through this refresh process in 2024.
- a map (Appendix 2 attached) of the process to update the programme outcomes and assessment materials and to get stakeholder endorsement of same.

As per the schedule, a number of programmes will be submitted for revalidation at each PAEC meeting.

6.3 Request for Modification of Validated Programmes

6.3.1 Griffith College

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

Given the current application rates, and anticipated increased demand for the programme, this request sought to increase the maximum intake number on the full-time programme from 60 to **90** per intake, starting with the September 2024 intake. To accommodate this increased intake, it was also requested to increase the lecturer ratio from 1:70 to 1:90 in each instance of delivery of the composite modules. This increased lecturer ratio is in line with the current staff: learner ratio applied within Griffith, and the college has demonstrated its ability to successfully deliver programmes of large class sizes, and to support the learners appropriately. The modification request is related to increasing the intake for the full-time delivery of the Master of Science programme and subsequent increasing staff: learner ratio. This does not affect the embedded programmes in this suite, or the part-time delivery mode.

6.3.1.1 PG24273, Master of Science in Digital Transformation (Life Science), Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

The Committee APPROVED the modifications to the programme as requested by Griffith College.

6.3.2 Dublin Business School

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The modification request related to increasing the maximum number of learners per intake for the full-time mode of these programmes:

- 6.3.2.1 PG24237, Master of Business Administration, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
- PG24326, Master of Science in Cybersecurity, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
- PG24328, Master of Science in Financial Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
- PG24665, Master of Science in Data Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
- PG24664, MSc in Digital Marketing & Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
- PG25001, Master of Science in Supply Chain Management, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

The Committee APPROVED the modifications to the programmes as requested by DBS.

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

7.1 Update on the follow-up of conditions of validation

As part of its internal quality assurance procedures, the executive is required to follow up on any Conditions of Validation imposed by the Programmes and Awards Executive Committee.

7.1.1 Dublin Business School (DBS)

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

At the April 2023 PAEC meeting, QQI validated, with one condition, the following transnational programmes from DBS and collaborative partners University of New York in Prague:

- PG24864, Master of Science in Business Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
- PG24866, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Business Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (Exit Award)

PG24867, Master of Science in Digital Marketing and Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
PG24868, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Digital Marketing and Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (Exit Award)

On 19 January 2024, DBS submitted a response to address this outstanding condition – evidence of authorisation from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, of Czech Republic.

The Committee NOTED that the executive now considers the condition to be met and that no further follow-up is required.

7.2 Update on the follow-up of conditions of QA Approval

As part of its internal quality assurance procedures, the QA Approval unit is required to follow up on any “Conditions of QA Approval” imposed by the Programme and Awards Executive Committee (PAEC).

7.2.1 Brothers of Charity Services Ireland

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

At its meeting on 7 February 2024, the PAEC approved the QA procedures of Brothers of Charity Services Ireland with five Conditions of QA Approval.

On 27 February 2024, Brothers of Charity Services Ireland confirmed that it had addressed the five conditions. It outlined what actions have been taken by the provider in respect of these conditions.

The Committee NOTED that the executive is satisfied that the five conditions of QA Approval have been appropriately addressed by the provider and that no further follow-up is required.

7.2.2 Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

At its meeting on 7 February 2024, the PAEC approved the QA procedures of Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed with five Conditions of QA Approval

On 28 February 2024, Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed confirmed that it had addressed the five conditions and outlined what actions have been taken by the provider in respect of these conditions.

The Committee NOTED that the executive is satisfied that the five conditions of QA Approval have been appropriately addressed and that no further follow-up is required.

7.2.3 Longford Women’s Link

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

At its meeting on 22 September 2022, the PAEC approved the QA procedures of Longford Women’s Link CLG with six Conditions of QA Approval.

At its meeting on 1 December 2022, the PAEC noted that the executive considered the conditions 1,3,4,5 and 6 to be met.

On 16 February 2024, Longford Women's Link CLG confirmed that it had addressed condition number 2 and outlined what actions have been taken by the provider in respect of this condition.

The Committed NOTED that the executive is satisfied that the condition of QA Approval has been appropriately addressed and that no further follow-up is required.

7.2.4 Qualtec

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

At its meeting on 9 February 2023, the PAEC approved the QA procedures of Qualtec with four Conditions of QA Approval. At its meeting on 9 February 2023, the PAEC noted that the Executive considered three of the conditions of QA approval to be met.

On 13 March 2024, Qualtec confirmed that it had addressed the one outstanding condition and outlined what actions have been taken by the provider in respect of this condition.

The Committee noted that the executive is satisfied that the condition has been appropriately addressed by Qualtec and that no further follow-up is required.

7.2.5 Ability West t/a St Joseph's Training Services

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

At its meeting on 7 February 2024, the PAEC approved the QA procedures of St Joseph's Training Services with one Condition of QA Approval.

St. Joseph's Training Services confirmed that it had addressed the condition and outlined what actions have been taken by the provider in respect of the condition.

The Committee NOTED that the executive is satisfied that the condition has been appropriately addressed by St Joseph's Training Services and that no further follow-up is required.

7.2.6 Youth Theatre Ireland

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

At its meeting on 7 February 2024, the PAEC approved the QA procedures of Youth Theatre Ireland with one Condition of QA Approval.

On 23 February 2024, Youth Theatre Ireland confirmed that it had addressed the condition and outlined what actions have been taken by the provider in respect of the condition.

The Committee NOTED that the executive is satisfied that the condition has been appropriately addressed by the provider and that no further follow-up is required.

7.2.7 Dublin 8 Community Education Centre

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

At its meeting on 7 February 2024, the PAEC approved the QA procedures of Dublin 8 Community Education Centre with five Conditions of QA Approval.

On 27 February 2024, Dublin 8 Community Education Centre confirmed that it had addressed the five conditions. It outlined what actions have been taken by the provider in respect of these conditions.

The Committee NOTED that the executive is satisfied that the five conditions of QA Approval have been appropriately addressed by the provider and that no further follow-up is required.

8. QA FOR COLLABORATIVE AND TRANSNATIONAL PROVISION

No Business

9. APPROVAL OF QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURES FOR LEGACY PROVIDERS (RE-ENGAGEMENT)

9.1 Qualtec

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS the blended learning quality assurance procedures of Qualtec.

9.2 B and B Nursing

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS the quality assurance procedures of B and B Nursing.

9.3 Voluntary Secondary, Community and Comprehensive Schools

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee APPROVED the quality assurance procedures of the following:

- Cabinteely Community School
- Coláiste Mhuire Ballygar
- Glenamaddy Community School
- Jesus and Mary Secondary School
- The Donahies Community School

The Committee APPROVED the application to extend its current scope of provision to include NFQ level 4 for Glenamaddy Community School and to approve the application to extend its current scope of provision to include NFQ level 3 for The Donahies Community School.

9.4 HSE North West Training and Support Services

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee APPROVED quality assurance procedures of HSE North West Training and Support Services.

9.5 Gorey Community School

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS the quality assurance procedures of Gorey Community School.

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. WITHDRAWAL OF PROVIDER QA APPROVAL

13.1 Withdrawal of Provider QA Approval

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

Killucan Area Services CLG requested to have QA Approval and Programme Validation withdrawn post the reengagement process.

The panel recommended QA approval through the reengagement process following the submission of revised documentation post mandatory changes. However, the provider did not submit a formal response, or a factual accuracy check. On 20 November 2023, the provider informed QQI that they would be discontinuing their adult education programme because of their inability to resource and meet the new standards for Early Learning and Care. On 31 January 2024, the provider confirmed by letter that the Board of Killucan Area Services CLG had decided not to continue with the QQI Reengagement process and that it would not be continuing with the QQI accredited adult education programmes at its centre.

The committee APPROVED the withdrawal of approval of Killucan Area Services CLG' quality assurance procedures and approved the withdrawal of validation of its programmes.

14. QA APPROVAL: PROCESS TO EXTEND APPROVED SCOPE OF PROVISION TO INCLUDE BLENDED AND / OR ONLINE PROGRAMMES

14.1 QA approval: Process to extend approved scope of provision to include blended and / or online programmes

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

In October 2023, QQI published new statutory QA Guidelines for Providers of Blended and Fully

Online Programmes. Providers who wish to have their approved scope of provision extended to include into these modalities need to have their QA procedures approved by QQI. On 7 February 2024, a proposed process to evaluate providers' applications for such an extension of scope was approved by PAEC. The process outlined in the documentation requires that QQI would stipulate the extension possible for a provider i.e. how far the provider could go along the continuum from fully onsite to fully online transnational, and that this would be proposed by the executive for approval by PAEC.

This paper presented for PAEC approval a schedule of all the providers seeking extension of scope and an outline of the evaluation method to be used in each case.

The Committee considered and APPROVED the proposed schedule for providers seeking to extend their approved scope of provision into blended and / or fully online modalities.