QQI
Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee (PAOC)

Note of meeting of **05 December 2023**

via

Microsoft Teams

Present: Sharon Feeney (Chair), Maria Ward, Cróna Gallagher, Brendan O'Dea, Billy Bennett, Alex Keys (Key Executive)

Apologies: Seán Rowland, Mark Kane

In attendance: Laura McNamee (QQI), Michelle Gallagher (QQI)

1.   Minutes of meeting of 17 July 2023

The minutes of the PAOC meeting on the 17 July 2023 were AGREED.

2.   New Members

Sharon Feeney, Maria Ward, and Cróna Gallagher were welcomed to the committee.

3.   Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were noted.

4.   Negative Decisions taken by the PAEC on Programme Validation for confirmation or referral back to the PAEC

No Business

5.   Oral Report of PAOC representations at PAEC meetings

Brendan O'Dea represented the PAOC at the PAEC meeting of 28 November 2023.

Specific points that Brendan noted:

- Recommends PAOC members observe the PAEC as it's a useful experience.
- Committee is well attended with many members and is well Chaired.

- Chair is inclusive, provides background on the processes for observer's information.
- Wide range of programmes, extraordinary variety of activity by QQI.
- Worthwhile experience - felt it was a robust system, and that the staff are on top of the work – very reassured.
- Remarked that PAOC members noted the heavy workload associated with low credit programmes but does not object as the benefits of the process are clear.
- Remarked on the low number of refusals considered by the PAOC annually, this is in part due to QQI staff managing and supporting applications.

6.   **Statistical Overview of Validation Process in 2022 and 2023**

The Key Executive introduced the item and gave a brief overview of the paper. The item was discussed. The committee raised a query on the paper, and requested explanatory detail be included in the next annual report. It was agreed that this query would be investigated and answered at the next meeting of the PAOC.

7.   **Draft PAOC Annual Report to Board 2022**

The Key Executive introduced the item and gave a brief overview of the paper. The item was discussed.

It was agreed that this paper will be presented to the QQI Board at its next scheduled meeting.

8.   **Draft Annual Self-Assessment Evaluation 2022**

No Business

9.   **Any Other Business**

The committee agreed the date of the next meeting, and proposed it be in person if possible. It was also agreed that the Terms of Reference and role of the PAOC would be an agenda item at the next meeting.

As there was no other business, the meeting ended.