

# Consultation on QQI Awards Policies and Interim Assessment Guidelines

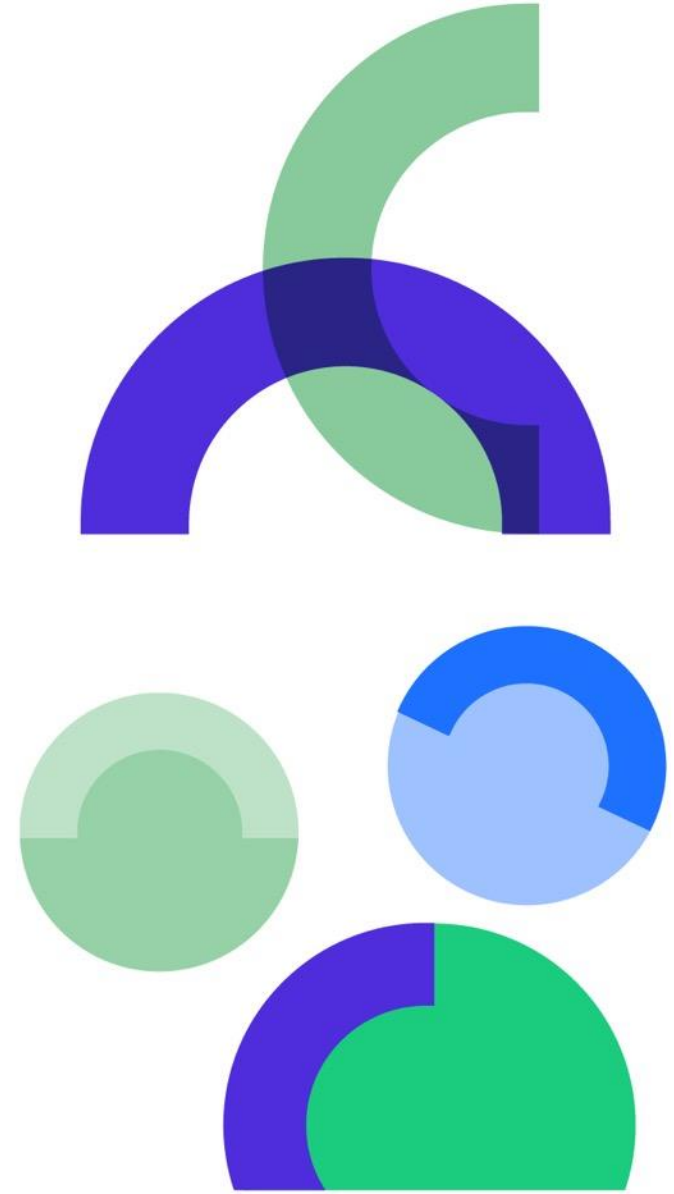
Monday 23 September 2024

Online Webinar

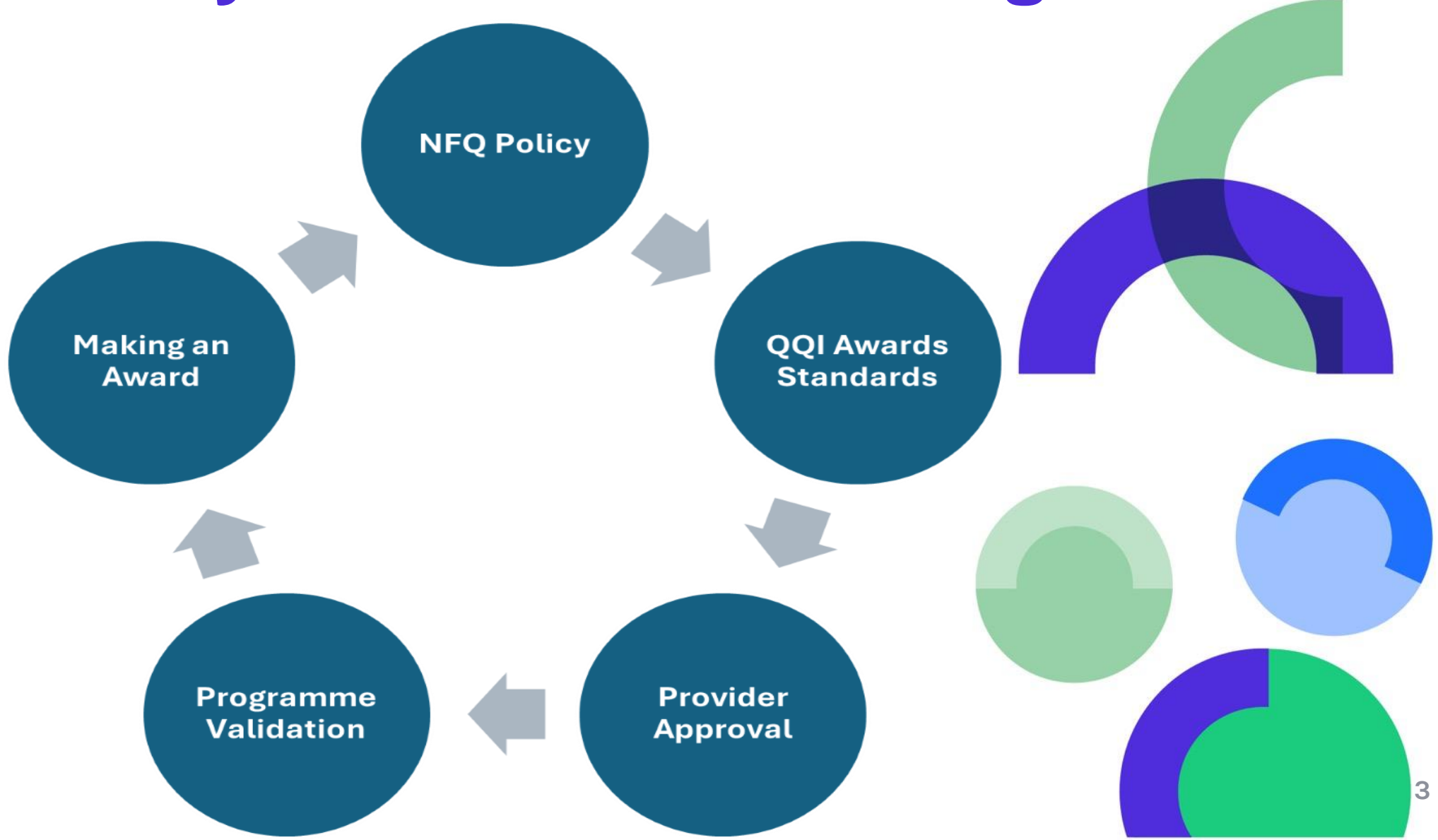
# Aim of Webinar

- Understand QQI role as an Awarding Body
- Understand provider role in QQI awards
- Note key policy changes are we proposing
- Be ready to engage in the consultation process

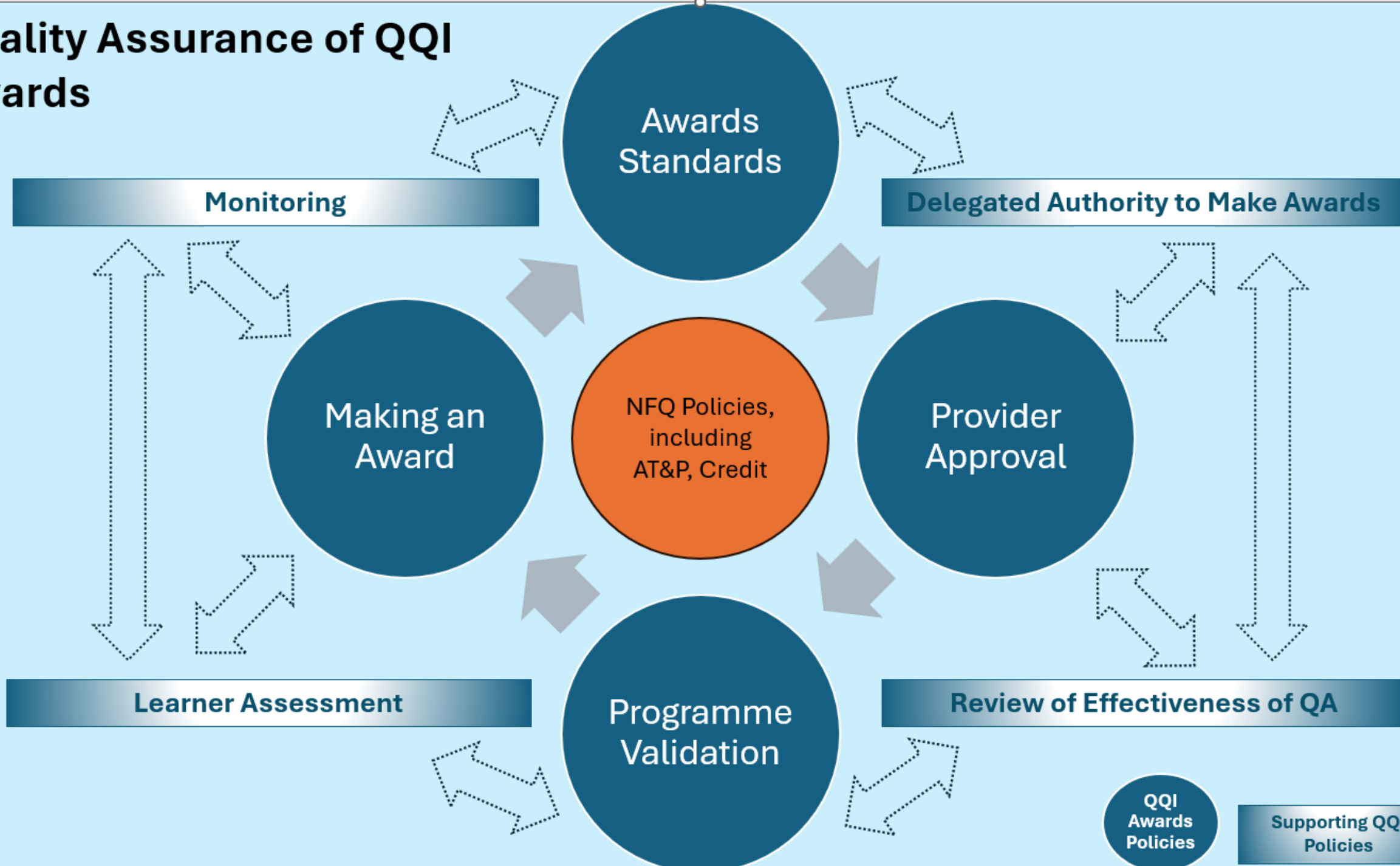
[Current consultations | Quality and Qualifications Ireland \(qqi.ie\)](https://www.qqi.ie)



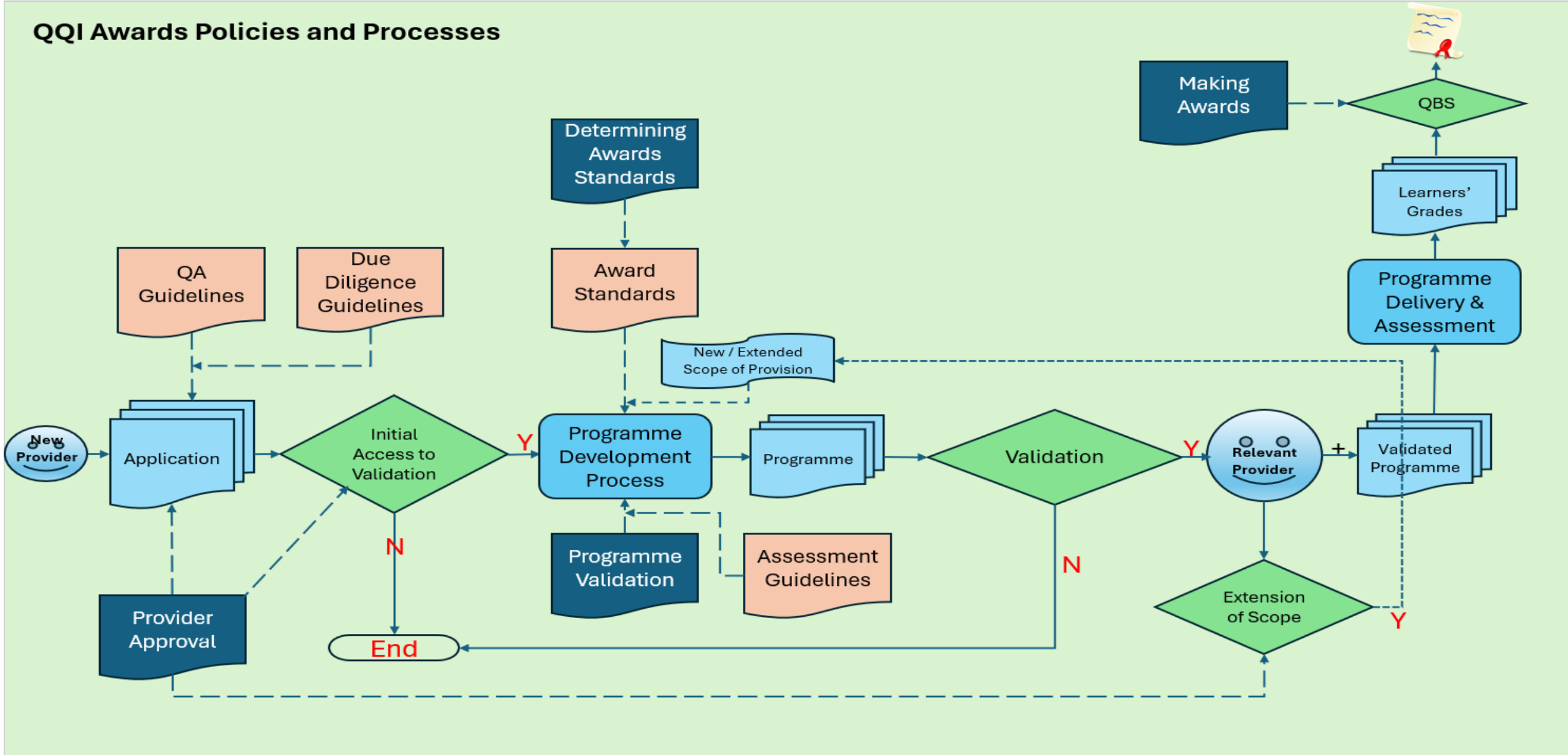
# QQI Statutory Model for Awarding



# Quality Assurance of QQI Awards

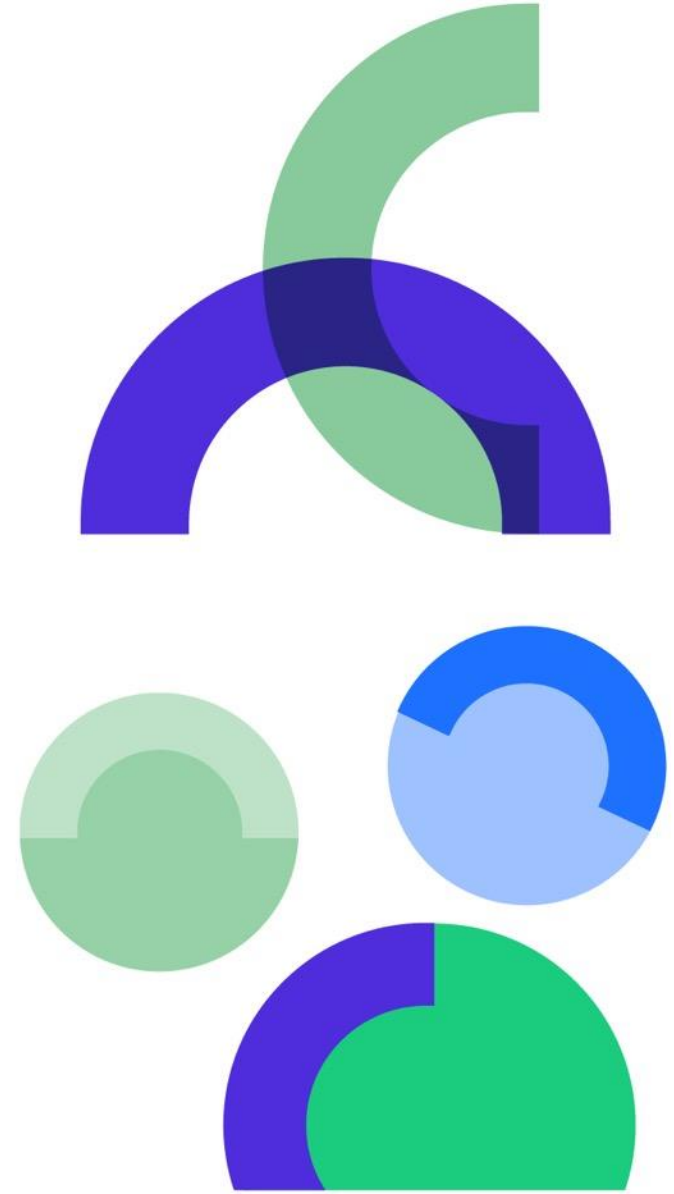


# QQI Awards Policies and Processes



# Navigating our Draft Policies

- Each draft policy follows a common layout:
  - legal basis
  - policy scope
  - policy purpose
  - explanations of key terms and
  - policy specific guidance.



# The Draft Policies and Key Changes Proposed

1. Draft QQI Policy and Criteria for Determining Awards Standards
2. Draft QQI Policy and Criteria for Provider Approval
3. Draft QQI Policy and Criteria for Programme Validation
4. Draft QQI Policy and Criteria for Making Awards
5. Draft Quality Assuring Assessment Interim Guidelines for Providers
6. Draft Quality Assuring Assessment Interim Guidelines for EAs

QQI HE &  
FET Awards

QQI FET  
Awards Only

# How QQI Determines Award Standards

## Key Policy Changes

- Restates the centrality of a **learning outcomes** approach
- Responds to evolution of the **Common Awards System**
- Consolidates the connection between award standards and validation recognising '**programme derived awards standards**'. (PDAS)
- Seeks to promote award standards that balance learner's interests in **flexible and accessible** qualifications and associated pathways, while at the same time promoting system **coherence, stability and consistency**.

## POLICY AND CRITERIA FOR THE DETERMINATION OF AWARDS STANDARDS



# How QQI Approves Providers

## Key Policy Changes

- Applies to Applicant and Relevant Providers
- Replaces policy on Initial Access to Programme Validation (IAV)
- Introduces Due Diligence checks for applicant providers
- Emphasises the centrality of 'Approved Scope of Provision'
- Clarifies rather than changes existing practice

## POLICY AND CRITERIA FOR PROVIDER APPROVAL

# How QQI Validates Programmes

## Key Policy Changes

- Separates policy and criteria from process
- Separate policy and criteria re CAS awards removed
- Criteria retained but some re-worded for clarity
- Sub-criteria recategorized as indicators
- Programme Life Cycle and different validation processes outlined
- Clarifies rather than changes existing practice

## POLICY AND CRITERIA FOR VALIDATION OF PROGRAMMES



# How QQI Make Awards (Certification)

## Key Policy Changes

- Specific Purpose Awards will be called **Special Purpose Awards**
- Offering a validated programme a pre-requisite for requesting an **award based on RPL**
- Special Purpose Awards available at **NFQ levels 1 and 2**
- A **'Record of Minor Awards'** to replace a 'Component Certificate'
- Strengthened advice on **integrity of assessment** and on **impartiality of decision** to request certification from QQI
- Prospect of **digital format** of QQI certificates

## POLICY AND CRITERIA FOR MAKING AWARDS

# Assessment of QQI FET Awards

- Proposed **interim** changes to guidelines pending planned comprehensive review (which will also encompass assessment of QQI HE awards).
- Interim revisions relatively limited but significant.
- Revisions in line with expected future direction.

## **DRAFT QUALITY ASSURING ASSESSMENT INTERIM GUIDELINES FOR PROVIDERS 2024**



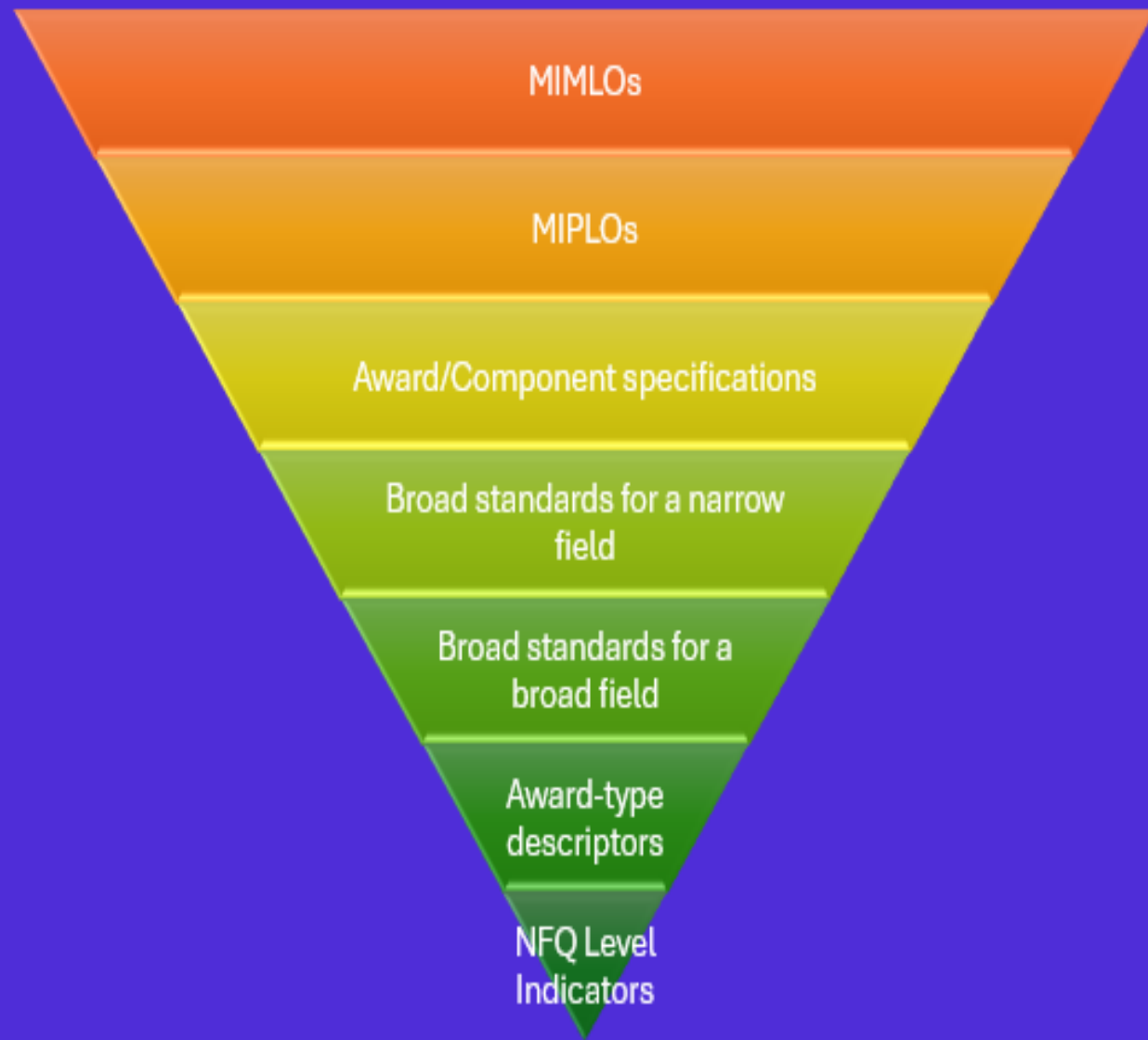
## **DRAFT QUALITY ASSURING ASSESSMENT**

Interim Guidelines for External  
Authenticators 2024



# Award Standards

- Assessment of learning against determined standards of knowledge, skill & competence.
- Award standards are defined with varying levels of specificity and aligned to the NFQ.
- The award standard for a named QQI FET award is the set of minimum intended programme learning outcomes (**MIPLOs**) and minimum intended module learning outcomes (**MIMLOs**) associated with the **programme** that leads to that award.
- Assessment **criteria** must relate to the standards (MIPLOs and MIMLOs).



# QQI FET Awards: Assessment Techniques

- Providers **are not** obliged to use assessment techniques included Common Awards System awards specifications.
- Providers are expected to comply with the assessment strategies set out in their **validated programmes**.
- Any changes to assessment **by providers** subsequent to validation must be managed in accordance with the relevant quality assurance procedures.



# QQI FET Awards: Assessment Principles



Validity



Fairness



Transparency



Inclusivity



**ASSESSMENT  
QUALITY**

Reliability



Quality Assured



Complementarity



Academic  
Integrity





# QQI FET Awards: Inclusivity

- All assessment of learners should be designed **from the outset** to be as inclusive as practicable.
- Reasonable accommodations should be made, where required.





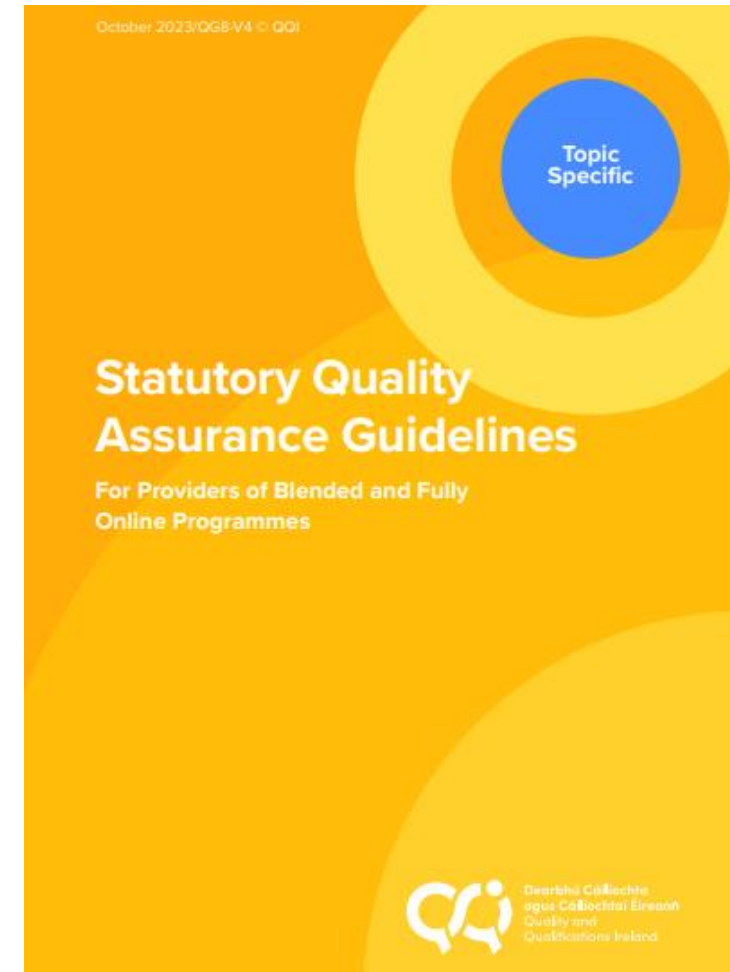
# QQI FET Awards: Academic Integrity

- The validity and reliability of assessment are compromised when the assessment is not robust against academic malpractice.
- Guidelines more explicit about responsibilities of providers, assessors and learners in maintaining academic integrity.
- Well-designed **assessment** (including its governance, policy, procedures, strategy, instruments and criteria) can help promote academic integrity and prevent academic malpractice.



# Computer-based Assessment

- Online/e-assessment poses particular challenges for the validity and reliability of assessment.
- Current guidance on assessment and feedback practices in blended/online contexts is available in QQI's [Topic-Specific Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines for Providers of Blended and fully Online Programmes.](#)



# Have your say ...

- <https://www.qqi.ie/what-we-do/engagement-insights-and-knowledge-sharing/current-consultations>
- Individual response form per document
- Closing date: **25 October 2024**
- Email queries to: [consultation@qqi.ie](mailto:consultation@qqi.ie)

## Current consultations

### Draft QQI Awards Policies and Interim Assessment Guidelines

Introduction

Draft Policy and Criteria for Provider Approval

Draft Policy and Criteria for Determining QQI Awards Standards

Draft Policy and Criteria for Validating Programmes Leading to QQI Awards

Draft Policy and Criteria for Making Awards

Quality Assuring Assessment Interim Guidelines for Providers

## Draft Policy and Criteria for Provider Approval

### What is the purpose of this draft policy?

This draft policy sets out the basis on which

- an education and training organisation can become a provider of QQI awards for the first time; and
- a current provider of QQI awards can be approved to extend the range of programmes it can submit for validation.

These processes have already been available but not under a single policy. This draft seeks to clarify the essential policy and criteria but does not specify details of the various approval processes as these are subject to change over time.

The policy is designed to integrate with related QQI Awards Policies on Programme Validation, Determining Standards and Making of Awards.

This draft policy will, when approved, replace policies on Initial Access to Programme Validation and Reengagement.

### Who will be interested in this policy?

This document will be of interest to current and prospective providers, and we very much look forward to hearing from both.

[Draft Policy and Criteria for Provider Approval](#)

Please submit your feedback here.