



**QQI**

Quality and Qualifications Ireland  
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

## Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board – Inaugural Review of Quality Assurance in Education and Training Boards 2022

### The Review Team



#### Chair

**Lewis Cooper** is Director of the Independent Commission on the College of the Future, a prominent UK-wide review asking two central questions: what do we want and need from colleges from 2030 onwards, and how do we get there. The Commission published its vision for the college of the future in August 2020, a UK-wide report in October 2020, and system-specific reports for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales over the subsequent six months. The Commission is now continuing its work, including with a report on university-college relationships to be published in collaboration with the Civic University Network in February 2022.

Prior to working in this role at the Independent Commission, Lewis worked at the Association of Colleges in England as Head of Public Affairs and External Relations where he worked to establish the #LoveOurColleges campaign, for a decade at the National Union of Students, and with two Westminster-based think tanks.


Alongside his day-job, Lewis is a PhD researcher at the University of Exeter (Penryn Campus), where he also teaches political theory.



#### Coordinating Reviewer

**Ms Joanne Whitelock** took up the role of Quality Assurance Coordinator with Donegal ETB in 2019. The role includes responsibility for the development and implementation of an integrated Quality Assurance system and its associated policies and procedures.

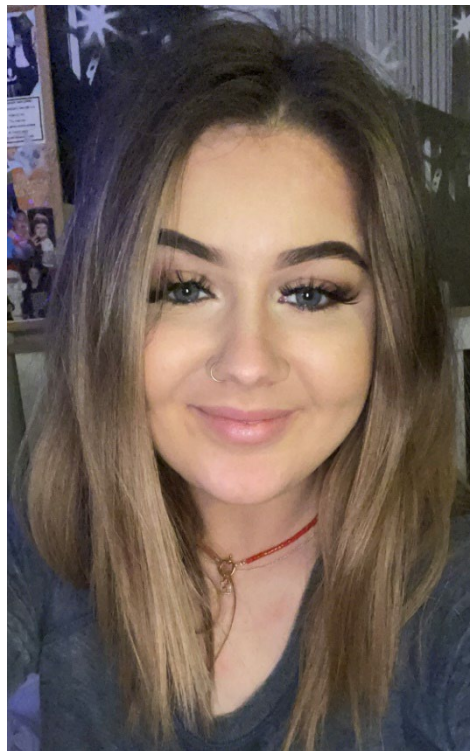
Joanne has over 16 years of experience working within Further and Higher Education in the UK and more recently Ireland, and has developed extensive knowledge of coordinating and implementing quality assurance policies and procedures. She has led quality inspections in 16-19 curriculum with Ofsted and Higher Education Office for Students inspectorates, and more recently as Review Coordinator for the recent Donegal ETB QQI Inaugural review.

	<p>In her roles as a Teacher, FE Manager and Director of Curriculum she has gained extensive experience of coordinating and managing quality assurance systems, across numerous FE curriculum areas and awarding bodies including, BTEC, City &amp; Guilds, NCFE, SQA, QQI and within HE provision through various Universities. She has been a panel member in the validation of programmes in the FET sector.</p> <p>Joanne is a graduate of Staffordshire University, where she secured an MA (Honours) in Education. She is passionate about education and in 2020 successfully completed the first iteration of the postgraduate certificate in programme design and validation in further education and training with the National University of Ireland Maynooth</p>
	<p>For over 20 years, <b>Geert Nanne Bruining</b> has worked in and learned from the Dutch, English and Irish vocational educational systems as a teacher, Internal Verifier, Programme Leader/Quality Nominee BTEC (International Business Studies) and Project Manager ‘Hotspot Cork’ at Noorderpoort, Groningen.</p> <p>Noorderpoort is a vocational educational organisation in the North of the Netherlands, offering more than 200 courses at 19 locations throughout the Provinces of Groningen and Drenthe. With 14,000 students (fulltime and part-time) and 1,400 staff Noorderpoort.</p> <p>While constantly growing and improving himself, his team, students and Education have been the main focus in his career. Geert has an Educational Bachelor’s in General Economics, Business Economics and History and recently received his Educational Master’s degree in Learning and Innovation. His thesis was on International cooperation in vocational education, partly done while living in Cork for a year, where he has established durable relationships with educational and business partners. Both staff and students of Noorderpoort and the CETB have been able to travel abroad and learn from each other through study trips and placements.</p> <p>Thanks to these relationships, Noorderpoort was able to help the City of Groningen become the first Dutch City in the UNESCO Network of Learning Cities in 2018.</p>



**Nikki McGoohan's** professional background has involved working with a varied range of SME's. For over 14yrs as a Partner in ProTemp she provided a range of business services including financial & general administration, mentoring business owners and assisting them in their dealings with employees and financial institutions including banks and accountancy firms. Prior to this Nikki worked in areas such as banking, insurance and with a start-up nanotechnology company.

Subsequently Nikki spent 6years as part of the management team of a manufacturing company with responsibility for HR/H&S. Since July 2020 Nikki is the Director of Propel 2Gether Ltd providing services such as business mentoring, executive and personal coaching and training. Nikki also works part-time with CMETB delivering courses such as HR Management, Business Management and Project Management as part of their evening provision.



**Ella Guinan** has studied a QQI level 6 advanced business course in the LOETB Tullamore, which she really enjoyed.

She then decided to further her professional education by doing a 12-week medical secretary course with DCM Learning.

Ella is currently working as a medical secretary in Midlands Regional Hospital Tullamore.



**Dr Ebum Joseph** is a Race relations consultant, Director Institute of Antiracism and Black Studies and Director and convenor, African Scholars Association Ireland (AFSAI). Dr Joseph is the Coordinator and Lecturer in UCD of the first Black Studies module in Ireland. She worked as a Teaching Fellow at Trinity College Dublin, Career Development Consultant at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and Business in the Community Ireland as Training and Employment Officer.

Dr Joseph has a PhD in Equality Studies from UCD School of Social Justice; an M.Ed. in Adult Guidance and Counselling from Maynooth University; an IACP accredited diploma in Professional Counselling; and a B.Sc. in Microbiology from the University of Benin. Dr Joseph focused her PhD dissertation, titled 'Racial Stratification in the Irish labour market' on workforce experiences.

Ebum is an author, TV panellist, Columnist, equality activist and convenor of various webinars on Anti-Racism. With a research focus on Labour markets and race relations, she has presented at several conferences, businesses and non-profits. Ebum is published and contributes regular responses on contemporary issues of racism in Ireland. Her recent book is titled, Racial stratification in Ireland: A Critical race theory of labour market inequality with Manchester University press. She also co-authored the book, Challenging Perceptions of Africa in Schools: Critical Approaches to Global Justice Education with Routledge in Jan 2020.