

At a Glance - QQI's Public Consultation on a Suite of Draft Broad Award Standards at NFQ Levels 1-4

Consultation Timeframe:

November 2022 – February 2023

Consultation Objectives:

- Gather general feedback on the appropriateness of each of twenty draft broad award standard
- Seek views on the Implementation Guidelines for implementing broad award standards at NFQ levels 1-4
- Explore flexibility and suitability of the new broad award standards in supporting the development of responsive programmes

Response to Consultation:

192 collective responses from individual institutions and representatives body including government agencies, professional recognition bodies, funders, social partners, teachers and FET providers.

Consultation Key Findings:

The innovation of the draft broad standards suite was welcomed and strongly supported by all stakeholders including education and training providers, ETBI and SOLAS.

Positives identified	Concerns highlighted	Insights from the feedback
The range and scope of the suite were welcomed	Implementation perceived as challenging	Some evidence of confusion between award standards and programmes
The new format of award standard could support innovative and responsive programme development to better address learner and industry needs	Difficulties envisaging how programmes would be structured, specifically embedded programmes	Understanding of the language of the NFQ, interpreting the grid of level indicators and award types and award classes, needs to be strengthened
The transversal nature of the Core Competences was welcomed	Perceived loss of standardisation across providers offering similar programmes	Terminology and language within the standards should be more accessible

QQI Response to Consultation:

- Feedback from this consultation will be considered in the final drafting of the broad award standards
- Undertake post review direct engagement with stakeholders
- Further Q&A fora will be organised to support implementation of the broad award standards
- Proof all broad award standards and the accompanying Implementation Guidelines for accessibility and plain English prior to publishing
- Following QQI internal governance, QQI will commence publishing the broad award standards along with comprehensive Guidelines for their implementation, in the last quarter of 2023.