

Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Quality and Qualifications Ireland

APPROVALS AND REVIEWS COMMITTEE

Notes of the Thirty Eighth meeting of the QQI Approvals and Reviews Committee, held on **Tuesday 20 June 2023 at 11.30 am via Teams**

Participation:

Professor Irene Sheridan (Chair)
Ms Laura Flynn
Ms Carol Hanney
Ms Clodagh McGivern
Dr Anna Murphy
Mr Ronan O'Loughlin
Mr Gerry O'Sullivan
Mr Tony Pettit

In attendance:

Ms Gráinne Power, Secretary
Ms Marie Gould
Ms Andrea Durnin
Ms Alex Keys
Ms Marie Mattimoe

Apologies:

Professor Fiona Farr
Mr Billy Kelly

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Committee approved the agenda for the meeting. There were no other conflicts of interest in relation to any of the items of business before the Committee.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 23 FEBRUARY 2023 (ARC/M37)

The Committee approved the Minutes of the ARC meeting held on 23 February 2023.

3. NOTES OF THE MEETING OF 23 FEBRUARY 2023

The Committee approved the Notes of the ARC meeting held on 23 February 2023 which will be published on the QQI website.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

5. REVIEW OF DUBLIN BUSINESS SCHOOL UNDER SECTION 34 (1)(b) OF THE 2012 ACT

Marie Gould and Andrea Durnin joined the meeting to present this item.

5.1 The Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI Executive to publish the final report and provider response in respect of the focused review of Dublin Business School under Section 34(1)(b) of the 2012 Act.

6. **QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURES**

Alex Keys and Marie Mattimoe joined the meeting to present items 6, 7, 8 and 9.

6.1 Approval of Draft Quality Assurance Procedures – Applicant Provider

The Committee noted the recommendation of the QQI executive (A38/6.1) based on the recommendation of the Quality and Capacity Evaluation Panel report (A38/6.2).

Following discussion, the Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive to refuse to approve with recommendations, the application from the Applicant Provider.

7. **QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURES**

7.1 Approval of Draft Quality Assurance Procedures – Applicant Provider

The Committee noted the recommendation of the QQI executive (A38/7.1) based on the recommendation of the Quality and Capacity Evaluation Panel report (A38/7.2).

Following discussion, the Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive to refuse to approve the application from the Applicant Provider.

8. **QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURES**

8.1 Approval of Draft Quality Assurance Procedures – National Organic Skillnet

(i) The Committee noted the recommendation of the QQI executive (A38/8.1) based on the recommendation of the Quality and Capacity Evaluation Panel report (A38/8.2). Following discussion, the Committee accepted the recommendation of the QQI executive to approve, with conditions of QA approval, the application from National Organic Training Skillnet and to allow the provider to make an application for validation of its Agriculture, Horticulture, Food and Training programme(s) leading to QQI level 3 – 6 major, minor and special purpose awards.

(ii) The Approvals and Reviews Committee further noted that the QQI executive is satisfied that all conditions of QA approval have been appropriately addressed.

9. **FOLLOW-UP ON CONDITIONS OF A QA APPROVAL – Steer Training Academy**

The Committee noted that the QQI Executive is satisfied that the condition of QA approval has been appropriately addressed by Steer Training Academy.

10. **ANNUAL SELF-ASSESSMENT EVALUATION OF THE PERFORMANCE OF QQI COMMITTEES - ARC REPORT 2022**

The Committee noted the Self-Assessment Report for 2022. The Committee discussed and reflected on the mainly positive overall comments contained therein. A number of comments related to:

- (i) Induction by the QQI executive for new members
- (ii) Engagement by the Committee with the QQI Board
- (iii) Presentations to the Committee by perhaps CEO, other QQI Committees, Directorates within QQI
- (iv) Attendance by Committee members at QQI conferences/events
- (v) The generation of new ideas by the Committee and reflection on what has worked well so far or not, at meetings
- (vi) Importance of meeting in person as a Committee at least for every second meeting

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1 In addition to the agenda items listed Marie Gould provided a brief update to the Committee on the upcoming external review of QQI by ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) in February 2024. The Self Evaluation Report (SER) due by mid November will include a SWOT analysis for QQI from a whole organisation perspective. It is intended to carry out a focused workshop with the ARC to feed into the SWOT analysis for the SER at the Committee's next scheduled meeting.
- 11.2 The Chair informed the Committee in light of her recent appointment as Chair of the QQI Board she will be replaced by another member of the Board shortly. The Chair extended her thanks to the Committee and staff of QQI for their dedicated work during her term. She also informed the Committee that Clodagh's term on the ARC would be ceasing following this meeting.

Committee members extended their thanks and good wishes to both Irene and Clodagh.