PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (PAEC)

Thursday 15 October 2020 at 2pm

via Microsoft Teams

Draft Note of the 49th meeting of the QQI Programmes and Awards Executive Committee held via Microsoft Teams, at 2pm on **Thursday 15 October 2020.**

Present:
Ms Cliona Curley, Interim CEO (Chairperson)
Ms Andrina Wafer
Ms Angela Lambkin
Ms Barbara Kelly
Dr Bryan Maguire
Dr John O'Connor
Ms Marie Gould

In attendance:
Ms Therese Masterson (Key Executive)
Ms Janet Cawley (Secretary)
Ms Carmel Kelly
Mr Walter Balfe
Ms Alex Keys
Ms Marie Mattimoe
Dr Barbara Brittingham (Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee)
Dr Deirdre Stritch (Items 9 and 13)

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Chairperson enquired and confirmed that there were no conflicts of interest in relation to any of the items of business before the Committee.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 10 SEPTEMBER 2020

2.1 The Minutes of the PAEC Meeting held on 10 September 2020 were approved by the Committee.

3. MATTERS ARISING

All matters arising were covered within agenda items and were discussed during the meeting.

4. NOTE OF THE MEETING, REPORT FOR THE BOARD

4.1 Note of Meeting of 10 September 2020

The Committee APPROVED the Note of the PAEC Meeting of 10 September 2020 for publication on the QQI website.

4.2 Report for the Board on the Meeting of 10 September 2020

The Committee NOTED the Report for the Board on the PAEC Meeting of 10 September 2020.

5. PROGRAMME VALIDATION APPLICATIONS

5.1 Further Education and Training (FET) Programmes

5.1.1 City Education Group

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

5.1.1.1 PG24187, Office Administration, Level 5, Major Award, 120 FET Credits, *CAS Award*

5.1.2 Optimum Ltd

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programme:

5.1.2.1 PG24351, Leadership, Level 6, Minor Award, 15 FET Credits, *CAS Award*

5.1.3 A Named Provider

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee REFUSED the validation of one programme of a named provider. The decision to refuse validation of the programme will be referred to the Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee (PAOC) for confirmation or referral back to the PAEC.

5.2 Higher Education and Training Programmes – Programme Validation

5.2.1 Dublin Business School

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed reports presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the programmes below for five years subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificate of Validation:

5.2.1.1 PG24324, Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
PG24325, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Artificial Intelligence, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits

5.2.1.2 PG24326, Master of Science in Cybersecurity, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
PG24327, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Cybersecurity, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits

5.2.1.3 PG24328, Master of Science in Financial Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
PG24329, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Financial Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits *(Exit Award)*

5.2.1.4 PG24322, Higher Diploma in Science in Aviation Finance, Level 8, Major Award, 60 Credits

5.2.1.5 PG24320, Certificate in Marketing Technology, Level 7, Special Purpose Award, 40 Credits

5.2.2 **Saint Nicholas Montessori College Ireland**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the programme below for five years subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificate of Validation:

5.2.2.1 PG24318, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Psychology, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

5.2.3 **Griffith College**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the programmes below for five years subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificate of Validation:

5.2.3.1 PG24408, Higher Diploma in Business in Pensions Management, Level 8, Major Award, 60 Credits
PG24409, Certificate in Pensions, Insurance and Investment, Level 8, Minor Award, 30 Credits

5.3 Devolution of Responsibility for Validation Sub-Processes
No Business

5.4 Validation of Research Degree Programmes
No Business

5.5 Apprenticeship Programmes
No Business

6. REVALIDATION

6.1 Application for Extension of Validation Period

6.1.1 **National College of Ireland**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

National College of Ireland (NCI) advised that they were seeking an extension of validation for a number of specific programmes. During the programme review process, a number of issues arose that necessitated applying for a one-year extension to the period of validation rather than continuing with the review of, and subsequent application for revalidation, for a number of specific programmes. The reasons related to each programme were outlined in the documentation, with further specific detail supplied to QQI by the President of NCI, Gina Quin, in a letter dated 5 October 2020.

The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date for the following programmes for one year:

6.1.1.1 PG21802, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in HRM Strategy and Practice, Level 8,
Major Award, 180 Credits
PG21810, Diploma in HRM Strategy and Practice, Level 7, Minor Award, 60 Credits
PG21880, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Human Resource Management, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits

PG21879, Master of Arts in Human Resource Management, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG22723, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Human Resource Management, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

PG22710, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Human Resource Management, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits

PG21882, Master of Science in International Business, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG21883, Postgraduate Diploma in Business in International Business, Level 9, Major Award, 70 Credits, *Exit Award*

PG21877, Master of Science in Management, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG21881, Postgraduate Diploma in Business in Management, Level 9, Major Award, 70 Credits, *Exit Award*

PG21885, Master of Science in Entrepreneurship, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG21887, Postgraduate Diploma in Business in Entrepreneurship, Level 9, Major Award, 70 Credits, *Exit Award*

PG21878, Master of Business Administration, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG22538, Master of Science in Marketing, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG22539, Post Graduate Diploma in Business in Marketing, Level 9, Major Award, 70 Credits, *Exit Award*

PG22718, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Marketing Practice, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits

PG22899, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Marketing Practice, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

PG22542, Master of Science In Non Profit Management, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG22543, Post Graduate Diploma in Business in Non Profit Management, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits, *Exit Award*

PG22526, Certificate in Non Profit Leadership and Management, Level 9, Special Purpose Award, 15 Credits

PG22527, Certificate in Social Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, Level 9, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits

PG22528, Certificate in Project Management and Implementation Science, Level 9, Special Purpose Award, 10 Credits

PG22706, BA Hons in Business Management, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

PG22711, Diploma in Business Management, Level 7, Minor Award, 60 Credits

PG22712, Certificate in Business Management, Level 6, Minor Award, 60 Credits

PG22721, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

PG22720, Higher Certificate in Business, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits

PG22705, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits

PG21913, Master of Science in Finance, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG22719, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accounting and Finance, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits

PG21951, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accounting and Finance, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

PG22518, Master of Science in Cyber Security Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG22519, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Cyber Security, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits

PG22517, Master of Science in FinTech, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits

PG22520, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in FinTech, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits

PG22547, Higher Diploma in Science in FinTech, Level 8, Major Award, 60 Credits

PG21753, Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Technology Management, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits

PG21687, Higher Certificate in Science in Business Computing, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits

6.1.2 **Update regarding Unilateral Extensions uptake from providers**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

Between June and October 2020, an additional 20 programmes have been added to the list of programmes availing of the unilateral extension. These extensions have been requested by five providers. The additional 20 programmes are shown in red text in the table below.

In total, 11 providers have opted to avail of the unilateral extension of enrolment interval until the end of December 2020, for a total of 61 programmes.

Provider	Prog Code	Programme Title
SOLAS	PG22050	Advanced Certificate Craft Metal Fabrication
	PG22046	Advanced Certificate Craft Electrical
	PG22036	Advanced Certificate Craft Carpentry and Joinery
	PG22025	Advanced Certificate Craft Heavy Vehicle Mechanics
	PG22022	Advanced Certificate Craft Plumbing
Kerry Education and Training Board	PG23401	Advanced Certificate in Culinary Arts
Griffith College	PG20399	Bachelor of Arts in Film and TV Production
	PG21104	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Design Communications
	PG22052	Diploma in Building Information Modelling (BIM) and Graphic Illustration
	PG22054	Certificate in Building Information Modelling (BIM) and Graphic Illustration
	PG22056	Diploma in Entrepreneurship and Project Management in the Built Environment
	PG22057	Certificate in Entrepreneurship and Project Management in the Built Environment
	PG22059	Diploma in Retrofit, Conservation and Sustainability
	PG22060	Certificate in Retrofit, Conservation and Sustainability
	PG22077	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in International Hospitality Management
	PG22079	Diploma in International Hospitality Management
	PG20099	BACHELOR OF BUSINESS in Procurement and Supply Management (IIPMM NFQ L7 programme – Griffith College PEL arrangement)
	PG22080	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accounting and Finance
	PG21957	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business Studies (HRM)
	PG21956	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business Studies (Marketing)
	PG21860	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business Studies
National College of Ireland	PG22719	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accounting and Finance
	PG21878	Master of Business Administration
	PG21877	Master of Science in Management
	PG21881	Postgraduate Diploma in Business in Management
	PG21885	Master of Science in Entrepreneurship
	PG21887	Postgraduate Diploma in Business in Entrepreneurship
	PG21882	Master of Science in International Business
	PG21883	Postgraduate Diploma in Business in International Business
Irish College of Humanities and Applied Sciences Limited	PG21852	Certificate in Counselling Studies
	PG21851	Higher Certificate in Counselling Studies
	PG21855	Bachelor of Arts in Counselling Skills and Addiction Studies
	PG21850	Bachelor of Arts in Counselling Studies
	PG21853	Bachelor of Arts in Counselling Skills and Psychotherapy Studies
	PG21856	Bachelor of Arts in Counselling Skills and Youth Studies

	PG21849	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Counselling Studies
	PG21846	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Counselling and Addiction Studies
	PG21848	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Counselling and Youth Studies
	PG21847	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Counselling & Psychotherapy
HSE - Regional Centre Nursing and Midwifery Education Blanchardstown	PG20463	Certificate in Psychosocial Interventions for Nurses
	PG21918	Certificate in BASIC COGNITIVE BEHAVIOURAL SKILLS FOR NURSES
	PG21919	Certificate in CARDIOVASCULAR NURSING
	PG21920	Certificate in DIABETES NURSING
	PG21921	Certificate in NURSE AUTHORITY TO PRESCRIBE IONISING RADIATION (X-RAY)
	PG21922	Certificate in RESPIRATORY NURSING
HSE - Regional Centre Nursing and Midwifery Education Tullamore	PG21805	Certificate in NURSE AUTHORITY TO PRESCRIBE IONISING RADIATION (X-RAY)
Farm Advisory	PG23814	Farming
	PG23812	Agriculture
ICD Business School	PG24082	Master of Arts in Accounting and Finance
	PG24081	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accounting and Finance
	PG24144	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business Studies
Dublin Business School	PG21015	Master of Science in Applied Psychology
	PG21040	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Computing
	PG22787	Higher Diploma in Science in Data Analytics
	PG22788	Certificate in the Fundamentals of Data Analytics
	PG22789	Higher Certificate in Arts
	PG22790	Certificate in Arts
Setanta College	PG21966	Bachelor of Science in Strength and Conditioning
	PG21963	Higher Certificate in Science in Strength and Conditioning
	PG21964	Certificate in Science in Functional Screening and Resistance Training
	PG21965	Certificate in Science in Strength and Conditioning

6.2 Revalidation

6.2.1 Griffith College

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED the revalidation of the following programmes for five years from September 2020 subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificate of Validation:

6.2.1.1 PG24406, Bachelor of Engineering in Industrial and Systems Engineering, Level 7, Major Award, 60 Credits

6.2.1.2 PG24411, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accounting and Finance, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits
PG24410, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business, Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits
PG24417, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business (HRM), Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits
PG24422, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business (Marketing), Level 8, Major Award, 180 Credits

6.2.1.3 PG24423, Bachelor of Arts in Marketing, Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits
PG24424, Bachelor of Arts in Business, Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits
PG24429, Higher Certificate in Business, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits *(Exit Award)*
PG24430, Higher Certificate in Business, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits *(Exit Award)*

6.2.1.4 PG24425, Master of Science in Network and Information Security, Level 9, Major Award,   90 Credits
PG24427, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Network and Information Security, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits
PG24426, Master of Science in Big Data Management and Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
PG24428, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Big Data Management and Analytics, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits

6.2.2 **Setanta College**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED the revalidation of the following four programmes and the validation of three new programmes for five years from December 2020 subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificate of Validation:

6.2.2.1 PG24405, Bachelor of Science in Strength and Conditioning, Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits
PG24420, Higher Certificate in Science in Strength and Conditioning, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits
PG24419, Certificate in Strength and Conditioning, Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 60 Credits
PG24418, Certificate in Fitness and Conditioning, Level 6, Minor Award, 30 Credits
PG24414, Certificate in Advanced Personal Training, Level 6, Minor Award, 30 Credits (New)
PG24415, Certificate in Youth Athletic Development, Level 6, Minor Award, 30 Credits (New)
PG24416, Certificate in Health and Wellness, Level 7, Minor Award, 10 Credits (New)

7. **FOLLOW-UP ON PAEC RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONDITIONS IN PANEL REPORTS**
No Business

8. **QA FOR COLLABORATIVE AND TRANSNATIONAL PROVISION**
No Business

9. **APPROVAL OF QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURES FOR LEGACY PROVIDERS (RE-ENGAGEMENT)**

9.A Named Provider

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee REFUSED to approve with recommendations the quality assurance procedures of the Named Provider (pending mandatory changes being made). The Named Provider may submit revised procedures for approval within a six-month period of notification of this decision.

9.2 Martha McGinn Training and Consultation

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee deferred consideration of this item pending receipt of further information from the provider.

9.3 A Named Provider

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee REFUSED to approve with recommendations the quality assurance procedures of the Named Provider (pending mandatory changes being made). The Named Provider may submit revised procedures for approval within a six-month period of notification of this decision.

9.4 A Named Provider

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee REFUSED to approve with recommendations the quality assurance procedures of the Named Provider (pending mandatory changes being made). The Named Provider may submit revised procedures for approval within a six-month period of notification of this decision.

9.5 Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG)

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED the quality assurance procedures of Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG) with a condition of approval (identified by the panel) that the provider reports to QQI on the implementation of proposed mandatory change 7.1.3, pertaining to the publication of the draft QA and the Privacy Policy.

9.6 Saint Nicholas Montessori College of Ireland – Blended Learning QA Approval

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED the quality assurance procedures for blended learning of Saint Nicholas Montessori College of Ireland (SNMCI).

The Committee noted that SNMCI did not seek approval of procedures for blended learning as part of its reengagement application. These were submitted post the overall reengagement process, which was completed successfully by SNMCI in April 2020. A bespoke process was put in place and a panel appointed comprising a Chair, a report writer, and a blended leaning expert. SNMCI has accepted the findings of the report and has agreed to implement the advised improvements set out by the panel.

10. ROUTINE STANDARDS ACTIVITIES UPDATE
No Business

11. CHANGE OF STATUS OF LEGACY HET AND FET PROVIDERS
No Business

12. REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (PAOC)
No Business

13. THEMATIC ANALYSIS OF PROVIDER REENGAGEMENT (QA APPROVAL)

13.1 Thematic Analysis of Provider Reengagement (QA Approval)

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

Earlier this year, QQI commissioned Dr Orlaith McCaul to undertake a thematic analysis of the reengagement process to date (September 2018 to February 2020). Dr McCaul's report is now complete and has been published on the QQI website: https://www.qqi.ie/Downloads/QQI%20Reengagement%20Report-Web.pdf

The executive is considering the findings and recommendations of the report to further enhance the process and have already implemented a number of changes to address issues raised by both providers and panel members (e.g. the creation of standing panels to help ensure consistency; increased response times for providers). The executive will prepare a formal response to the report, which will address each recommendation, and which will also be published.

QQI is reassured that the majority of providers found reengagement to be a positive and worthwhile experience. 100% of providers stated that the process had improved their QA systems. A typical provider quote cited in the report reads:

It was a very worthwhile process, professionally undertaken and the engagement with the panel was collegial, mutually respectful and positive. Likewise, the QQI staff involved were exceptionally courteous, professional and supportive. (Provider, 2020)

QQI continues to operate the reengagement process apace, with approximately 20 providers scheduled to apply for reengagement per quarter between now and November 2022 (the legal deadline by which all applications for reengagement must be submitted). All private and independent HE providers have now submitted applications for reengagement, with a small number still in process.

14. SOLAS – QA APPROVAL UPDATE

14.1 SOLAS – QA Approval Update

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

The Committee noted that SOLAS has submitted two applications for QA approval. Meetings have been held with SOLAS executive team but to date, the QA has not been approved.

The pandemic has further delayed SOLAS application. It was agreed that SOLAS will submit, within the next few weeks, their *current* quality assurance procedures for Craft Apprenticeships, E-College and CSCS programmes, together with an implementation plan, for evaluation by QQI executive. It will culminate in a QQI senior management level dialogue meeting to conclude the approval process and agree the way forward.

When the longer-term picture for Craft Apprenticeships is clearer, the approval of the quality assurance for these programmes will be revisited.