

Dearbhu Cailiochta agus Cailiochta Éireann
Quality and Qualifications Ireland

APPROVALS AND REVIEWS COMMITTEE

Note of the second meeting of the QQI Approvals and Reviews Committee, held in Behan House, 10 Lower Mount St., Dublin 2 on Monday 27 April 2015 at 11:00a.m.

Present:

Professor Kevin Ryan (Chair)
Mr Maurice Buckley
Ms Una Buckley
Dr Ann-louise Gilligan
Dr Martin Iyes
Ms Trish O'Brien

In attendance:

Ms Colette Harrison (Key Executive)
Mr Kevin Henry (Recording Secretary)
Mr Walter Balfe (Item 4)
Dr Deirdre Stritch (Item 6)

Apologies:

Ms Marie Kehoe-O'Sullivan
Mr Kevin Donoghue

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee APPROVED the Minutes of the ARC Meeting held on 03 November 2014.

2. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee APPROVED the Notes of the ARC Meeting held on 03 November 2014, and approved same for publication on the QQI website.

3. MATIERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 03 November 2014.

The Committee approved the agenda for this meeting and confirmed that there were no conflicts of interest in relation to the following items of business.

4. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

4.1 Delegated Authority (DA):

Walter Balfe joined the Committee to provide further information on the explanatory memorandum. He confirmed that five Institutes of Technology (IoTs) had applied for an extension of DA in accordance with Policy QP.04 and the associated sectoral protocols. Registrars, on behalf of their respective Academic Councils submitted to QQI the required confirmation of compliance with the sectoral protocols.

The Committee NOTED the extension of DA, in respect of the following IoTs:

- for the purposes of entering into programmes leading to Joint Awards with other awarding bodies
 - o Institute of Technology Tallaght

- o Institute of Technology Sligo
- o Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology
- o Institute of Technology Carlow
- o Limerick Institute of Technology
- to include all programmes leading to Research Masters' awards
 - o Institute of Technology Tallaght
 - o Institute of Technology Sligo

It also noted that compliance with the sectoral protocols will be confirmed in the context of annual dialogue discussions and statutory periodic review of the IoTs.

5. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURES

GMB College Ltd: Approval of Draft Quality Assurance Procedures

- 5.1 The Committee discussed its role in the context of Stage 1 of the policy for initial access to QQI programme validation, agreement of provider quality assurance procedures, and the relationship between its role and that of the QQI Executive and the Quality and Capacity Evaluation Panel (QCEP).
- 5.2 The QQI Executive acknowledged that the role of the ARC within the QQI governance structure is evolving and will develop further in the context of the implementation of the International Education Mark (IEM) and re-engagement with legacy providers' policies. Following discussion, the committee agreed its role is more clearly expressed as being:
- to provide effective oversight of the governance process that is, in this context, applied at Stage 1 to a provider seeking initial access to QQI validation and which is evidenced through a report produced by the QCEP and recommended by the QQI Executive to the ARC for approval;
 - to provide oversight of the consistency in the governance of the process applied across providers seeking initial access to QQI validation (Stage 1) as evidenced by the ARC's examination of a number of reports produced over time by the QCEP and recommended by the Executive to the ARC for approval
 - to make recommendations to the Executive for improvements in the governance process applied in Stage 1 to providers seeking initial access to QQI programme validation.

The Executive confirmed it would amend the supporting documentation it provides to ensure it accurately reflects the role of the Committee. It was agreed that the role of the ARC as described above in the context of initial access to QQI programme validation could apply generically to the role of the ARC in terms of the outcomes of other processes, such as re-engagement and the IEM.

- 5.3 On the recommendation of the QQI Executive, the Committee APPROVED the draft Quality Assurance procedures of GMB College Ltd., subject to the QQI Executive satisfying itself that the College has met the conditions and recommendations, as outlined in Part 6 of the QCEP report. Thereafter, GMB College Ltd. will be permitted to progress to Stage 2 of the access to initial programme validation process.

6. INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION MARK (IEM)

Deirdre Stritch joined the ARC to update the Committee on the implementation of the IEM. Aspects of the legislative provisions for the IEM set out in the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012 are currently being considered by QQI in consultation with the Department of Education and Skills. This necessity has led to adjustments in the anticipated timeframe for the introduction of the IEM, and thus a corresponding delay in the role of the ARC in considering the recommendations of the QQI Executive regarding the authorisation of the IEM. A further update will be provided to the ARC at its next meeting.

7. SCHEDULE OF 2015 MEETINGS

The ARC noted that it already has agreed on Wednesday, 24 Jun 2015 for its next meeting, at Behan House, 10 Lower Mount St. at 11:00am. The ARC also AGREED the meeting dates for the remainder of this year, taking place as follows:

- QQI Boardroom, Wednesday, 9 September 2015, 11:00am
- QQI Boardroom, Wednesday, 4 November 2015, 11:00am
- QQI Boardroom, Wednesday, 9 December 2015, 11:00am

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

As no matters arose under any other business the Chair closed the meeting.

