

Circular No. 1 2014 - Explanatory Memorandum

Applies to the following providers:

Providers, other than Institutes of Technology, that are listed in S.44 (9), Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012 (the 2012 Act), in respect of their Further Education and Training awards, namely;

- Education and Training Boards,
- An Foras,
- National Tourism Development Authority,
- Teagasc
- An Bord Iascaigh Mhara, and
- Recognised schools, and

providers currently offering validated programmes leading to QQI further education and training awards, other than the providers listed above, who may wish to avail of the exemptions which are available to the listed providers.

Please note: Providers other than those listed in s.44 can only apply for exemptions for awards recognised under this arrangement. They cannot otherwise apply for recognition of awards they are offering in the context of this interim arrangement.

Purpose of the Circular

The purpose of this circular is to outline the interim arrangements for recognition within the National Framework of Qualifications (the Framework) of further education and training awards made by awarding bodies other than QQI. These arrangements involve programmes offered by s.44(9) providers listed above that lead to the awards of awarding bodies other than QQI. Entering into arrangements of this nature is enabled by section 48 of the 2012 Act. QQI recognises that in some circumstances, the awards of other awarding bodies may be more appropriate for the requirements of learners, employers and providers. In light of the fact that some of the listed providers already provide programmes which lead to the awards of bodies other than QQI, the arrangements described in the circular will facilitate the continuing availability of certain non-QQI awards by the listed providers. These interim arrangements will be superseded by QQI policy in the area of recognition within the Framework.

The outcome of these interim arrangements is that QQI will provide for recognition of these awards in the Framework. In addition, in certain circumstances, awards recognised under these arrangements may be used for exemptions in QQI validated programmes leading to awards in the Common Awards System.

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Please note: The closing date for receipt of applications is 30th September 2014