

Circular No.2 2014 - Explanatory Memorandum

Applies to the following providers:

Institutes of Technology (S.44 (9), Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012 (the 2012 Act), in respect of their Further Education and Training awards

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 specific awarding bodies other than QQI. These arrangements involve programmes offered by s.44 (9) providers 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 Institutes of Technology 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 to them. These interim arrangements will be superseded by QQI policy in the area of recognition within the Framework.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.

Contents of the Circular

1. Introduction
2. Legal basis
3. Context
4. The need for the interim arrangement
5. The interim arrangements
6. Application process

Please note: The closing date for receipt of applications is 30th September 2014. Applications should be sent to framework.standards@qqi.ie.