

**QQI**Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Circular

Reference:	2017 – 02 QQI CL
Title:	New Validation Policies Implementation for FET Programmes leading to CAS Awards.
Issued by:	Regulation Unit, Quality Assurance Directorate
Subject:	New Validation Policies to be Implemented in FET Programmes leading to CAS Awards from 1st December 2017.
Recipients:	All Further Education and Training Providers
Of interest to:	Providers and centres offering programmes leading to Cas Awards
Effective from:	1 st December 2017
Date:	November, 2017
Further information:	www.QQI.ie

New Validation Policies and Criteria 2016 Implementation for FET Programmes

From 1st December 2017 all Further Education and Training providers with the exception of ETBs, will be required to develop FET programmes leading to CAS awards using the new Validation Policies and Criteria 2016. ETBs will also be transitioning to the new policy but have established a national working group with QQI to develop a sectoral approach to implementation, a separate timeline will be determined and agreed through this process.

Providers are asked to familiarise themselves with the new policy, available [here](#).

During the adjustment period providers for this new policy implementation providers are asked to contact QQI initially before preparing a programme for submission for validation under the new policy. QQI will be available for one-on-one meetings and policy workshops for providers will be offered early in the new year.

Resources for programme applications, including programme descriptor template and programme descriptor template guidelines, are available [here](#) on the QQI website. Please note that these are draft documents, and all feedback is welcome.

Note: Under the new policy, all Independent Evaluators Validation Reports, validated or refused, will be published on the QQI Website. Previous Validation Reports are available through [QSearch](#).

Planned Training Events

As part of QQI's efforts to maintain and improve the quality of our validation process, we are planning to hold a second set of workshops for training potential chairs, subject-matter experts and report writers (for the validation of FET, HET and apprenticeship programmes) at the end of November/beginning of December. We also plan to hold a training event for providers of FET programmes in January 2018 to ensure a smooth transition to the implementation of the changed processes.

If you have any queries regarding the above information, please contact QQI via email at qqiqa@qqi.ie