



**QFI**

Quality and Qualifications Ireland  
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

# CONSULTATIVE FORUM



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9 NOVEMBER 2017

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MEETING REPORT

# Key priorities for QQI in 2018

## 1. **Reengagement**

QQI will be meeting with all of the Education and Training Boards in 2018 as part of the reengagement process.

## 2. **CINNTE reviews**

QQI launched its CINNTE review cycle of institutional reviews. While Irish higher education institutions have primary responsibility for reviewing and improving their own quality, QQI is responsible for carrying out external review on a cyclical basis. The CINNTE review cycle, began in September 2017 and will run for seven years until 2023.

During this time, QQI will organise and oversee independent reviews of each of the Universities, the Institutes of Technology and RCSI. Each review will be carried out by an international team of independent experts and peers, who will review the education and training provision, to ensure agreed quality standards are being met.

## 3. **Strategy Statement 2019-2021**

QQI's current strategy covers the period of 2016-2018, next year QQI will develop its third Strategy Statement. QQI will consult with a wide range of stakeholders, internal and external, drawing on the expertise of the members of the consultative forum to assist with its development.

## 4. **Internationalisation Education Mark**

It is anticipated that legislation enacting the IEM will be passed in 2018. QQI is developing a programme of projects to develop processes where applicable and enable implementation of the legislation.

# Theme: Effective Stakeholder Engagement – developing QQI's Strategy 2019-2021

Anna Murphy, QQI facilitated a table discussion presenting a number of questions for consideration. Each group had 20 minutes per question to discuss and feedback was gathered by a nominated person at the table. QQI staff members joined each group to provide information on QQI if required. The following questions were considered:

1. What are the key priorities for your organisation in the short, medium and long term?
2. What can QQI do, if anything, to progress some of these priorities?
3. What do you think QQI should be doing?
4. How best can QQI engage with you / your organisation to develop its next strategy?

A broad range of responses were gathered, below is a reflection of the most common areas that emerged.

## 1. Key priorities for forum members

- » Consideration of the impact of Brexit
- » Extension of delegated authority
- » Inclusion of other awarding bodies in the Framework
- » Apprenticeships (development of new apprenticeships welcome across a variety of sectors and industry)
- » the development and introduction of the IEM with a clear and realistic time frame
- » Promote the value of quality of Irish education and training and qualifications
- » Validation process should be fair and equitable and specific conditions should be clearly communicated
- » Recognition of Prior Learning – guidelines / principles to be 'dusted down'
- » Extension of delegated authority to level 10 for THEA institutions. Ensuring the process is workable
- » Interaction between quality assurance processes and accreditation by professional bodies

## 2. What can QQI do to progress some of these?

- » Be clear and consistent in policies (consistency in language and in style)
- » Avoid duplication of content within documents
- » Engage more with stakeholders – recent validation workshops warmly received
- » Consider sectoral working groups
- » Raise awareness and communicate better and earlier on broad direction of policies such as code of practice and IEM
- » Work with regulating and professional bodies and providers to avoid duplication
- » Evaluate the reengagement process
- » Host workshops to co-create policy and interpret policy

## 3. What do you think QQI should be doing?

- » Communicate clearly
- » Build relationships through more face to face meetings
- » More visibility of QQI's internal QA procedures
- » Look at the benefits / differences QQI's policies have made
- » Be more familiar with different sectors
- » More site visits
- » Executive summary of key points in publications would be welcomed
- » Follow up to Professional Association Research Network (PARN) report could include item to address overlapping requirements of professional / QQI and HEIs
- » Follow the principles of universal design

#### 4. How best can QQI engage with you and your organisation?

- » Shared learning through workshops
  - » Be aware of peak activity periods when consulting (avoid deadlines for May or September)
  - » More alignment of agencies and providers
  - » Questionnaires
  - » More enhanced engagement – feedback documented and circulated to those who participated
  - » Engage more with agencies like SOLAS and with provider to address overlaps in reporting requirements
  - » Confederation of student services in Ireland CSSI noted as an example of good stakeholder communication
5. The feedback was welcomed and will inform the development of QQI's methodology and approach to the development of its Strategy Statement 2019-2021

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## Updates

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Karena Maguire provided an update on QQI's activities in Q4 2017; the English Language Education conference taking place 22 November and the higher education quality enhancement event taking place 11 December. This year the theme is Internationalisation - a driver of quality in Irish Higher Education and it will be hosted in conjunction with the Higher Education Authority.

During the meeting the topic of the PARN report was raised and is of particular interest to members of the Consultative Forum. The report aims to establish a clearer picture of the professional accreditation landscape in Ireland to determine who does what and with whom across the entire higher education system.

Members are encouraged to provide feedback on the forum by contacting Laura Carrigan at [lcarrigan@qqi.ie](mailto:lcarrigan@qqi.ie)