



QFI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

CONSULTATIVE FORUM



24 NOVEMBER 2016

MEETING REPORT

Introduction

The purpose of the Consultative Forum is to contribute to the development and implementation of an enhanced further and higher education and training and qualifications system, through consultation and dialogue.

The sixth meeting of QQI's Consultative Forum took place on 24 November at the Fitzwilliam Hotel, St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. The central theme of the sixth meeting of the Consultative Forum was Brexit: Implications for education and training providers in Ireland

40 delegates from stakeholder organisations, representatives from the QQI Board and QQI executive staff attended the Forum. See appendix 1 for a list of attendees and appendix 2 for the agenda.

QQI Updates

The QQI executive provided the Consultative Forum with updates regarding a number of areas including:

- » Development of Quality Assurance guidelines including sector and specific, IOT and university guidelines working with ETB to develop guidelines for this sector
- » Development of specific guidelines for apprenticeships
- » Updates on events hosted by QQI including the Self-evaluation and reflective practice seminar in April and English Language Enhancement in November.
- » The new education and research bill in the United Kingdom – representatives from UK attending QQI's higher education event in December
- » The need for QQI to host an event for private further education and training providers was noted

Theme: Brexit: Implications for Education and Training Providers in Ireland

Brexit was the main theme of the meeting with two guest speakers invited to share their insight and observations with the Consultative Forum. We had Vincent Landers from the Department of Education and Skills and Derry Gray from Dublin Chambers of Commerce.

Vincent looked at the relationships the UK might have after Brexit with the EU and with Ireland, exploring what Ireland's future role with the UK might be. He observed that special needs services in border areas will require consideration as does early childhood education. He also noted that Horizon 2020 objectives were unlikely to be met.

Derry's observations on Brexit included the need to listen, the EU project was about peace so it's imperative we listen to our neighbours. In terms of business one of the key points is not the exchange rate but opening of new markets - how to get through barriers and the issue of 'early movers'.

Observations / Questions

After the presentations, the floor was open for questions and comments which included:

- » There are programme opportunities for FE students into the UKL, issue is increasing demand on HE from students who previously went to UK
- » EU listening to citizens, is there possibility of another referendum? It would seem talk of another referendum is becoming less and less
- » What can we learn from countries like Norway and Sweden? They've research agreements in place with EU, one could argue they are in the EU but their citizens don't realise it!
- » Ireland is well placed we need to act smart and fast, employers crossing borders with qualifications. Would generate huge interest from employers and education institutions – could be an opportunity.
- » Possible impact on the CAO system – extra student demand on places – this would be a challenge on an already stressed sector.

Conclusion

The theme of the Consultative Forum provided a lot of food for thought for those in attendance. While there was plenty of discussion of the risk implications with Brexit there was also some discussion as to the potential opportunities available to Ireland. This is particularly true of education and training, as Ireland will become the only native English speaking country in the EU.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Consultative Forum will take place 11 May 2017.

Appendix 1: List of Attendees

Dr Aidan Kenny

Teachers Union of Ireland (TUI)

Attracta Halpin

National University of Ireland

Catherine Collins

Skillnets

Damien Owens

Engineers Ireland

Prof. David Croke

Royal College of Surgeons

David O'Grady

Marketing English in Ireland

Derry Gray

BDO/ Chamber of Commerce

Fiona Hartley

SOLAS

Hilary Tierney

AIEB/ NSETS

Ian McKenna

Higher Education Colleges Association

Inez Bailey

National Adult Literacy Association

Janet Dawson

NEBOSH

Jenny Hayes

Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC)

Dr Jim Murray

Institutes of Technology Ireland

Joe Hanlon

Teagasc

John McGuigan

Department for the Economy

Maria Murphy

Chartered Accountants Ireland

Dr Martin Gormley

Adult Education Officers Association

Dr Michael Mulvey

Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT)

Dr Terry Maguire

National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

Niamh O'Reilly

AONTAS

Nick Kho

NEBOSH

Philip Sheridan

City and Guilds

Rory O'Sullivan

National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals

Ruth Hoben

Irish Nursing Board

Shane Balzan

CIMA

Sinéad Lucey

Irish Universities Association

Tony Gaynor

Department of Education and Skills (Higher Education)

Tony Sullivan

MLI International Schools

Vincent Landers

Department of Education and Skills (International Section)

List of Attendees (*continued*)

QQI Board Members

Gordon Clark

Chairperson

Dr Ann Louise Gilligan

Dr Barbara Brittingham

Una Buckley

QQI Staff

Dr Padraig Walsh

CEO

Dr Anna Murphy

Barbara Kelly

Dr Deirdre Stritch

Grainne Power

Mary Dowling

Mary McEvoy

Mary Sheridan

Dr Niamh Lenehan

Paul Brady

Roisin Sweeney

Siobhan Brennan

Sue Hackett

Walter Balfe

Appendix 2: Copy of the Agenda

CONSULTATIVE FORUM | 24 NOVEMBER

AGENDA

10.30 **Registration**

11.00 **Welcome and QQ Updates**

Dr Padraig Walsh, CEO, QQI / Forum Chair

THEME: Implications of Brexit for education
and training providers in Ireland

11.30 **Presentations**

1. **The education and training perspective** - Vincent Landers, Principal Officer, International Section, Department of Education and Skills
 2. **The business and skills perspective** - Derry Gray, Partner, Head of Management Consulting, BDO / President, Dublin Chamber of Commerce
-

12.00 **Table Discussion and Feedback**

Questions for Consideration

1. What issues do you foresee arising in your area of business from Brexit?
 2. How do you think specifically quality assurance in education and training will be affected?
 3. In what way will Brexit impact on qualifications (such as recognition, accreditation and mobility of students)?
-

13.00 **Close and Lunch**

AGENDA