

Policies and Standards Committee (PSC)
Friday, 28th April, 2017 – 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Behan House, Dublin

Present: James Moore - Board Member and Committee Chair

Joanne Harmon – Board Member

Catherine MacEnri – National Expert

Daire Keogh - National Expert

Barbara Kelly - Director of Qualifications, QQI

Roisin Sweeney – Head of Awards Standards, QQI

Ewart Keep - International Expert

Lucien Bollaert - International Expert

In attendance: Paul Brady - QQI Secretary

Karena Maguire, Head of Quality Projects, QQI (Item 6.2)

Apologies: Ann Louise Gilligan – Board Member

Anne Marie Ryan - National Expert

Bryan Maguire - QQI Executive Member

In opening the meeting, the Chair welcomed all the members including new member Professor Daire Keogh of Dublin City University, attending his first meeting, who gave a brief account on his background and experience.

0. Matters Arising

Chairperson report on general activities of interest to the PSC.

0.1 The committee will extend their best wishes to Ann Louise Gilligan.

0.2 Thanked the Executive for distribution of documentation following on from the previous meeting.

- 0.3 The committee were informed that in relation to the organisational review, the QQI Board were involved in high level communications with the Department of Education and Skills.

1 Minutes of Meeting of the Policies and Standards Committee (PSC) of 24th February 2017 (PSC/M13)

The Minutes of the Meetings of 24th February 2017 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

2. Matters Arising from Minutes

No matters arising.

3. Standards Determinations

3.1 FET Award Standards

Revised Award Standards – Private Security Services

The Committee NOTED the standards presented and considered the observations made in relation to the non-state security sector. The members recognised the work involved in the review process, the breadth of expertise in the Standard Development Group (SDG) and that this sector is subject to regulation under the auspices of the Private Security Authority (PSA). Discussion by members covered the appropriateness of learning outcomes, the fact that an award is not a licence to work. The members recognised the importance of the addition of a minimum level of competency in English for access to a programme leading to these awards. The members NOTED the consultation process and the feedback received from same.

The PSC **AGREED to ADOPT** the new Special Purpose award standards at NFQ Levels 4 for:

Level 4 Special Purpose Door Security Practice

Level 4 Special Purpose Security Guarding

4. Policy Development

No business

5. Green Papers

No business

6. White Papers

The members were informed that the Topic Specific QA Guidelines on Research Degrees have been finalised and published and were provided with a hard copy of the publication.

6.1 QA Guidelines

Explanatory Memorandum

Feedback report on Sector Specific QA Guidelines for ETB's
Sector Specific QA Guidelines for Education and Training Boards – final version for adoption and publication

The members NOTED the paper in relation to Sector Specific QA Guidelines for Education and Training Boards. The members agreed that the paper is detailed and extensive and that a full and robust consultation process, which included the participation of the new cohort of Further Education Directors appointed in the ETB sector, reflected a more holistic and comprehensive approach to the requirements of this sector. The committee welcomed the acknowledgement of the extensive collaboration among ETBs on the QA and other developments within the QA guidelines.

The members recommended that a clearer distinction is made regarding the scope of provision within ETBs' covered by these QA procedures, in particular with reference to second level schools. ETBs are developing entities with a wide range of activities.

Following discussion, the PSC AGREED the Sector specific QA Guidelines for Education and Training Boards for ADOPTION and PUBLICATION subject to the above clarification.

7. Any Other Business

The members were updated on the Review of QQI Awards Standards project. The consultation period is now closed, having been extended to mid-April and consideration will be given to responses and feedback received during consultation. The issue of resources to carry out the review was discussed and the committee consider that the engagement of additional personnel by QQI is most important to the success of the project. Additional project staff have been requested and an action plan for implementation of review is being devised. In parallel QQI is commissioning research on the future of qualifications. The committee will be informed at the next meeting of progress in relation to approval of funding for additional resources.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 29th June 2017 (venue to be confirmed).

The final meeting for 2017 was agreed for Wednesday 8th of November 2017.

All meetings will commence at 10:30am and finish at 1:30pm.

In closing, the Chairman thanked the members of the Committee and the QQI Executive for their contributions and participation in the meeting.