

Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee (PAOC)

Notes of meeting of 26 September 2019

Present: Barbara Brittingham (Chair); Ken Carroll; Paul Lyons; Gina Quin; Gerard Morgan; Carmel Kelly (Key Executive)

Apologies: Mary Danagher

In attendance: Michelle Gallagher (QQI)

1. Minutes of meeting of 03 May 2019

The minutes of the PAOC meeting on the 03 May 2019 were AGREED.

2. Conflict of Interest

One Conflict of Interest was noted and discussed. Gina Quin excused herself from the room for Item 3.1.1.

3. Negative Decisions taken by the PAEC on Programme Validation for confirmation or referral back to the PAEC

3.1 Validation Refusals

3.1.1 National College of Ireland

Certificate in Data Science, Level 6, Minor Award, 60 Credits (PAOC/A2-2019/3.1.1)

The item was introduced by members of the Committee, and the issues that informed the PAEC decision were discussed. The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of this programme was considered and CONFIRMED.

3.1.2 Dorset College

Certificate in Pre-Masters Studies, Level 8, Special Purpose Award, 60 Credits

(PAOC/A2-2019/3.1.2)

The item was introduced by members of the Committee, and the issues that informed the PAEC decision were discussed. The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of this programme was considered and CONFIRMED.

3.1.3 The Open Training College

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits

Bachelor of Arts in Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy, Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits
Higher Certificate in Arts in Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits
(PAOC/A2-2019/3.1.3)

The item was introduced by members of the Committee. It was noted that this item was discussed at the PAOC meeting of 03 May 2019, in which the Committee requested the PAEC direct the executive to obtain a formal confirmatory provider response to the final independent evaluation report for these programmes. The issues that informed the PAEC decision were discussed.

The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of these programmes was considered and CONFIRMED.

3.1.4 IBAT College

Bachelor of Business, Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits
Higher Certificate in Business, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits (*Exit Award*)
Certificate in Business, Level 6, Minor Award, 60 Credits (*Exit Award*)
(PAOC/A2-2019/3.1.4)

The item was introduced by members of the Committee, and the issues that informed the PAEC decision were discussed. The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of these programmes was considered and CONFIRMED.

4. Oral Report of PAOC representations at PAEC meetings

No Business.

5. Statistical Overview of Validation Process in 2018 (PAOC/A2-2019/5)

The Key Executive introduced the item and gave a brief overview of the paper. The process for Extensions of Validation, and the increasing demand for apprenticeships were discussed.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes –

6.1 ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) review of QCI Report (PAOC-A2-2019/6.1)

This paper was for noting and was briefly discussed. The Committee congratulated QCI for the reconfirmation of its membership of ENQA.

6.2 Infographics – Google Analytics Data for QCI's Infographic Website (*for noting*) (PAOC-A2-2019/6.2)

This item was for noting and was briefly discussed.

6.3 Draft HE and Apprenticeship (Programme Validation) Evaluator and Applicant provider feedback and QCI Response 2018 Report (PAOC-A2-2019/6.3)

This paper was for noting and was briefly discussed. The issues highlighted in the report and QCI's responses were discussed. A Committee member inquired about the process for gathering

the information for the report. The Key Executive gave an overview of the survey process and confirmed that the report will be published.

7. Observations of the Committee

7.1 Members presenting validation refusal cases - discussion

As agreed at the PAOC meeting of the 03 May 2019, validation refusal items on the PAOC agenda were assigned to two PAOC members, who reviewed and lead the discussion on these items at the meeting. The Committee found that, in general, this was a beneficial method of presenting the validation cases that provided in-depth analysis of the application. It was agreed to continue with this method of presenting for the next PAOC meeting.

The Committee noted that guidelines regarding how best to consider and evaluate validation refusals would be helpful.

Draft guidelines will be provided to the PAOC in advance of its next meeting.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Amendment Act 2019 (for noting) *(PAOC/A1-2019/8.1)*

This paper was for noting and was briefly discussed. The Committee discussed some of the key changes to QQI functions which will come about as a result of the amended legislation.

As there was no other business, the meeting ended.