

Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee (PAOC)

Notes of meeting of 6 December 2018

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

Apologies: Mary Danagher

In attendance: Michelle Gallagher (QQI)

1. **Minutes of meeting of 12th September 2018** *(PAOC/A3-2018/1)*

The minutes of the PAOC meeting on the 12 September 2018 were AGREED.

2. **Conflict of Interest**

It was noted that two members of the committee are involved in the provision of apprenticeship programmes. This was not deemed to be a conflict of interest.

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 **HCT Learning**

Pre-Cast Concrete Production Skills, Level 3, Minor Award, 5 Credits *(PAOC/A3-2018/3.1.1)*

The item was introduced by the Key Executive. The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of this programme was considered and CONFIRMED.

3.1.2 **West Offaly Training**

Personal and Professional Development, Level 6, Minor Award, 15 Credits

(PAOC/A3-2018/3.1.2)

The item was introduced by the Key Executive. The background and related issues that informed the PAEC decision were discussed.

The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of this programme was considered and CONFIRMED.

4. **Oral Report of PAOC representations at PAEC meetings**

Barbara Brittingham (Dec PAEC)

(PAOC/A3-2018/4)

Due to the rescheduling of December PAEC, no oral report was presented.

5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes –**

5.1 **Brief Synopsis of Apprenticeship Programme Validation** (PAOC/A3-2018/5.1)

This paper was for noting and was briefly discussed. The rationale for the analysis was explained. The challenges around providing apprenticeships were discussed.

5.2 **HE & Apprenticeship Programme Evaluator feedback and QQI response (Sept 2016 – Nov 2017)** (PAOC/A3-2018/5.2)

This paper was for noting and was briefly discussed. The item was introduced by the Key Executive. The issues highlighted in the report and QQI's responses were discussed. A member of the committee commended the report as a useful piece of work.

5.3 **Draft Report on Accreditation of HEI Programmes by Professional and Regulatory Bodies** (PAOC/A3-2018/5.3)

This paper was for noting. The Key Executive introduced the item. International accreditation practices for professional bodies, where dual awarding bodies are involved, were discussed.

5.4 **Example of a positive IER: City of Dublin ETB's Advanced Certificate in Auctioneering and Property Services programme** (PAOC/A3-2018/5.4)

This paper was for noting. The Key Executive introduced the item. The committee expressed thanks to City of Dublin ETB for providing an informative cover letter for the IER. It was noted that the committee found reading a positive IER interesting and beneficial.

5.5 **Thematic analysis of reports on the accreditation / approval / review of programmes of higher education** (PAOC/A3-2018/5.5)

This paper was for noting and was briefly discussed. It was noted that the data presented in the report was very interesting, particularly the gender breakdown of evaluation panels.

The committee requested that QQI's formal response, once complete, be presented at the next PAOC meeting for information.

6. **Any Other Business – QQI Strategy 2019-2021** (PAOC/A3-2018/6)

This item was for noting. The committee commented that the new strategy statement shows a new level of development. It was noted that it is clear and accessible.

As there was no other business, the meeting ended.