

26th Meeting of the Policies and Standards Committee (Incorporeal)

29 September, 2020 from 11:00 am to 1:00pm

MS Teams Meeting

Meeting Note

Present: Anne Walsh - Committee Chair
Barbara Kelly - QQI Executive Member
Bryan Maguire - QQI Executive Member
Aileen Ponton - International Expert
Bryan Fields - National Expert
Niamh O'Reilly - Board Member
Hannah McGee – National Expert
Alan Power – National Expert
Achim Hopbach, International Expert

In attendance: Peter Cullen – Head of Research and Standards (QQI Key Executive for the PSC)
Ann Graves - QQI Secretary

Apologies: Aoife Sweeney – National Expert

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, expressed condolences to family and colleagues on the death of Roisin Sweeney.

Item 1 - Standards – review and development. Minor modifications to English Language Teaching - Awards Standards

The Committee **agreed to Approve** the proposed corrections as follows:

1. The title of this award to be changed to *Certificate in Teaching English as a Second or Other Language (TESOL)*.
2. The award class to be changed to 'special purpose'.
3. The QQI Policy and Criteria for Making Awards published on the QQI website will be amended as soon as possible to reflect corrections 1 and 2.

Item 2 Policy and Guidelines – approval of minor modifications

The Committee **Noted** the need for academic conditions to be sufficiently far seeing to facilitate the planning needs of learners and providers. Following discussion during which Committee **noted** the importance of a programme of engagement with providers and the need for QQI to look at longer term policy and to revisit policies including the QA and Validation policies for online learning programmes which need to be informed by the current national and international experiences, the

Committee **approved** an extension to 31 August 2021 for the COVID-19 mitigation measures already approved in March 2020.

The Committee **Noted** the following documents circulated in advance of the meeting

- Building Confidence: Supports and Arrangements for the Tertiary Education System
- Guiding Principles for Alternative Assessments
- Measures to Mitigate Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Programmes Leading to QQI Awards

Item 4 - Notable new publications since the last PSC meeting.

The Committee **Noted** the publication of ‘The Impact of COVID-19 modifications to Teaching, Learning and Assessment in Irish Further Education and Training and Higher Education - A QQI Evaluation’ which they acknowledged was a comprehensive piece of work and commended the work done.

The QQI executive acknowledged the input by FET and HE institutions as well as Aontas, AHEAD, USI and others. The Committee **noted** the causes and impacts on those most affected and suggested that this would be an opportunity to look at best practice around maintaining Learning Outcomes while changing delivery of programmes. The Executive will consider how this can be achieved.

Item 5 – work of the Committee

The Committee **Noted** that the current emergency situation is a significant time to reflect on the work of the Committee and an opportune time to explore how the work of the committee is going and to shape the direction of how policy is evolving.

The Committee **agreed** that the next meeting would take the format of a reflective meeting and consider for example:

- The Terms of Reference
- The contributions by the Committee to the Board and Work of QQI
- Bringing new perspective to the work of the Committee, what are we doing and achieving?
- Building on the QQI Evaluation report – “The Impact of COVID-19 Modifications to Teaching, Learning and Assessment in Irish Further Education and Training and Higher Education”