

PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (PAEC)

Monday 24 March at 4pm

via Microsoft Teams

Note of the 77th meeting of the QQI Programmes and Awards Executive Committee held via Microsoft Teams, at 4pm on **24 March 2025**.

Present:

Dr Padraig Walsh (Chairperson)
Ms Andrea Durnin
Ms Barbara Kelly
Ms Órla Barry
Ms Roisín Morris-Drennan

In attendance:

Ms Therese Masterson
Ms Alex Keys
Ms Laura McNamee
Ms Michelle Gallagher
Ms Mairéad Boland

Apologies:

Dr Jim Murray
Ms Marie Mattimoe

1. Report on Validation of Craft Apprenticeship Programmes

The Committee noted the paper on validation of craft apprenticeship programmes circulated.

Over the course of 2024, the PAEC approved the revalidation of 15 Craft Apprenticeship programmes where Solas is the coordinating provider. As craft apprenticeship programmes are due to be migrated to other coordinating providers under the new national strategy for apprenticeship, QQI viewed it as critical that these programmes be updated as soon as possible.

To expedite the process, QQI and Solas agreed that a different approach would be taken to the normal validation protocol involving the appointment of an external expert panel, a site visit and an independent validation report.

In its place, the following procedure was followed. Solas was directed to refresh, for each of the crafts that have never been validated or have not been revalidated since 2023:

- The Occupational Profile
- Minimum Intended Programme Learning Outcomes (MIPLOs). In addition, Solas also had to provide evidence of industry endorsement for these MIPLOs.
- Assessment materials. Solas was also directed to provide evidence of endorsement from experienced instructors / assessors for revised assessments.

On that basis, QQI agreed to accept applications for revalidation based on receipt of this material and to issue updated certificates of validation with new programme and award codes. This expedited process takes the place of the normal evaluation by an independent panel including a site visit and report.

All craft apprenticeship programmes covered by this protocol were then presented to a meeting of the QQI Programmes and Awards Executive Committee (PAEC) for validation. Following validation by PAEC, a validation certificate was issued. In place of the normal panel report, it is proposed that the following report format be used on the QQI validation reports section of QSearch.

(example) Report on revalidation of Craft Apprenticeship Programme

Advanced Certificate - Electronic Security Systems (craft)

Context

Solas is currently the provider of 27 Craft Apprenticeships, some of which have never been validated by either FETAC or QQI and others that have not been revalidated for some time. As all craft apprenticeship programmes are due to be migrated to other coordinating providers under the new national strategy for apprenticeships, it is critical that they be updated as soon as possible.

QQI and the National Apprenticeship Office (NAO) have agreed that a process to update craft programme standards and assessments is a priority for the migration strategy.

Meetings between QQI and Solas (December 2022 and Spring 2024) agreed on the following process to address this issue. Solas was directed to refresh, for each of the 20 crafts that have never been validated or have not been revalidated since 2023:

- the Occupational Profile
- Minimum Intended Programme Learning Outcomes (MIPLOs). In addition, Solas also had to provide evidence of industry endorsement for these MIPLOs.
- Assessment materials. Solas was also directed to provide evidence of endorsement from experienced instructors / assessors for revised assessments.

On that basis, QQI agreed to accept applications for revalidation based on receipt of this material and to issue updated certificates of validation with new programme and award codes. This expedited process takes the place of the normal evaluation by an independent panel including a site visit and report.

All craft apprenticeship programmes covered by this protocol are presented to a meeting of the QQI Programmes and Awards Executive Committee (PAEC) for validation.

The required updated documentation in relation to the programme leading to the award of Advanced Certificate in Electronic Security Systems was submitted, as required, to QQI and the programme was validated at the PAEC Meeting of April 2024.

The above report template should be used for the following craft apprenticeships with the appropriate wording substituted, mutatis mutandis.

Craft	PAEC meeting
Farriery	April 2024
Agricultural Mechanics	June 2024
Industrial Insulation	June 2024
Mechanical Automation and Maintenance Fitting	July 2024
Sheet Metal Working	July 2024

Motor Mechanics (Automotive Technology)	September 2024
Stonecutting and Stonemasonry	September 2024
Vehicle Body Repair	September 2024
Brick and Stonelaying	November 2024
Construction Plant Fitting	November 2024
Painting and Decorating	November 2024
Plastering	November 2024
Pipefitting	November 2024
Toolmaking	November 2024
Wood Manufacturing and Finishing	November 2024

The Committee APPROVED the process as outlined above.