



**QQI**

Quality and Qualifications Ireland  
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

# ANNUAL ANALYSIS OF AWARDS MADE BY QQI IN 2019



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This is a synoptic analysis of QQI Certification Data for 2019.

It provides information on awards made in 2019 by QQI for further education and training (FET) providers and certain higher education (HE) providers.

QQI is the only body currently awarding FET qualifications that are included in the NFQ.

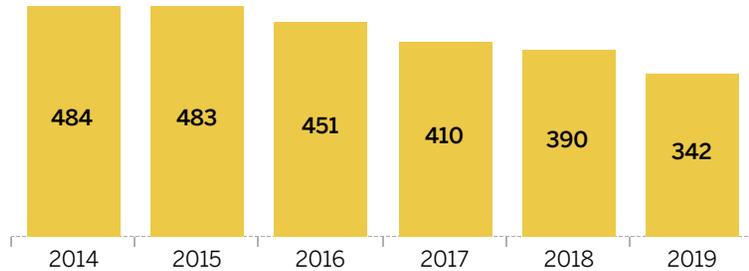
QQI awards, however, account for a relatively small fraction of the HE awards made each year that are included in the NFQ.

For further information visit: <https://infographics.qqi.ie/>

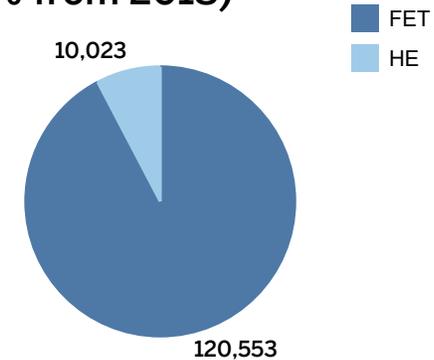
## OVERVIEW - AWARDS MADE BY QQI IN 2019



**342** providers  
(down 12% from 2018)



**130,321** learners received QQI awards  
(down 4% from 2018)



**219,508** awards were made by QQI  
(down 3% from 2018)

- 209,440 in FET, 95% of all awards made (down 4% from 2018)
- 10,068 in HE, 5% of all awards made by QQI (up 20% from 2018)



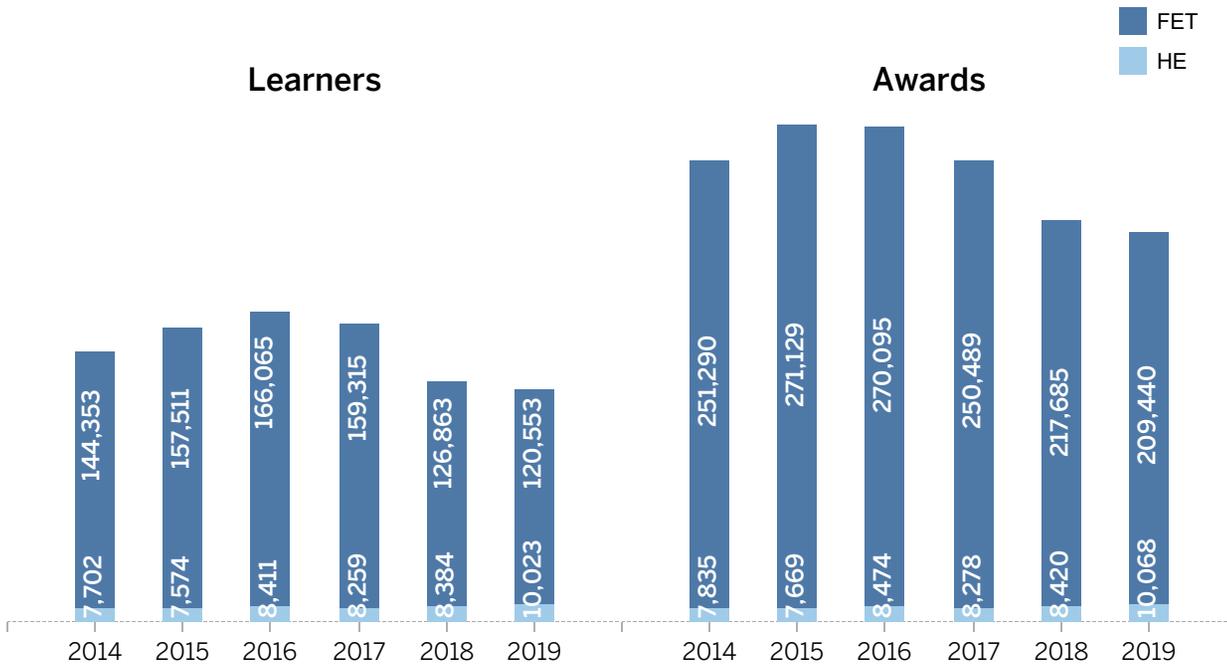
NFQ Level 5 accounted for the largest number of awards achieved by NFQ level (i.e. 49% of all awards achieved were made at this level)



**11,303** learners received awards at two or more NFQ levels in 2019

**254** learners received both FET and HE awards in 2019

# NUMBER OF LEARNERS RECEIVING QQI AWARDS - TRENDS 2014-2019

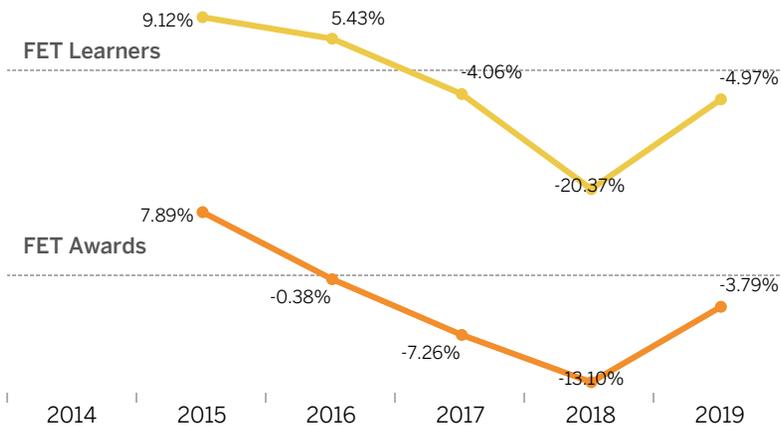


The number of **learners receiving FET awards from QQI** has declined since it peaked in 2016, when 166,065 learners received 270,095 awards

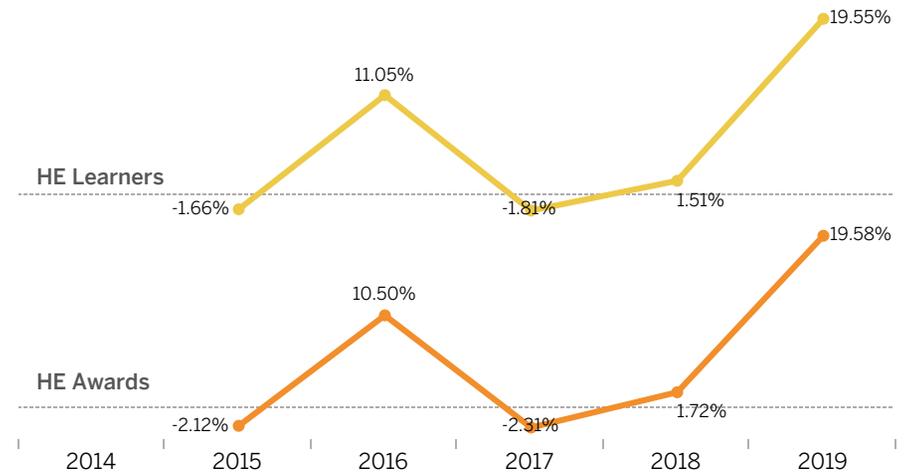
The number of **HE learners receiving QQI awards** has increased since 2016



The **number of FET learners and awards** has declined since 2015. The largest drop in numbers occurred in 2017 when learners declined by 20% and awards by 13%



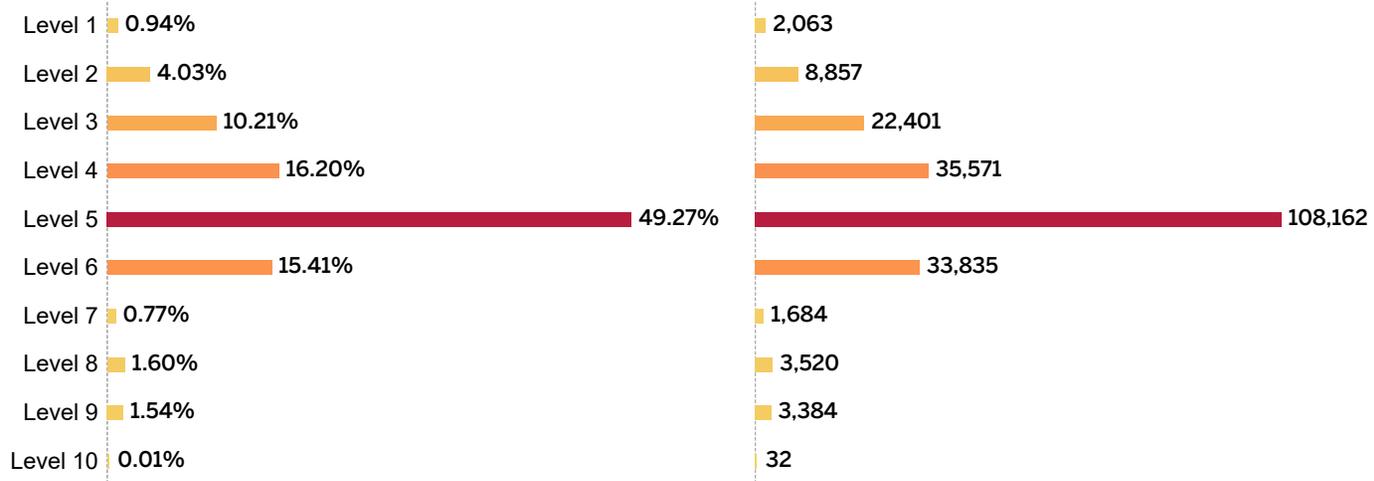
The number of **HE learners receiving QQI awards** increased by 20% in 2019; the highest numbers in the 6 years period



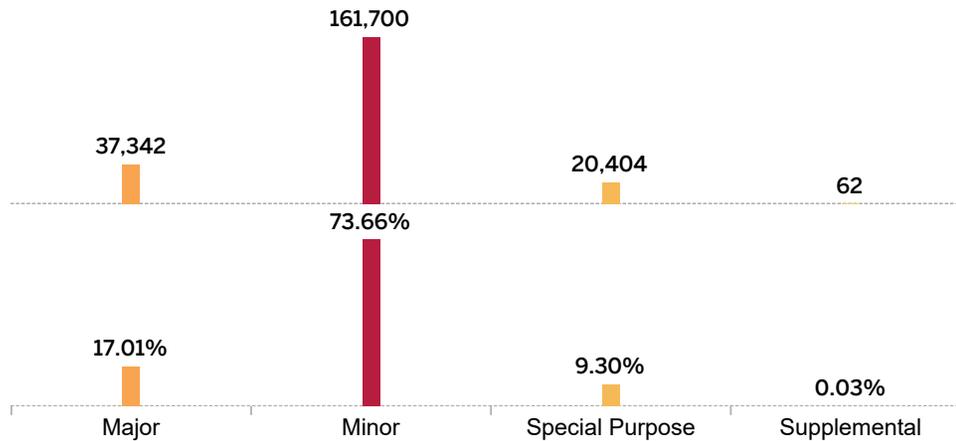
# NUMBERS OF QQI AWARDS BY NFQ LEVELS & CLASS IN 2019



**108,162** or 49% of all awards made by QQI in 2019 were at **NFQ Level 5** (down 9% from 2018 when 119,238 awards were made at this Level)



**161,700** or 74% of all awards made by QQI in 2019 were **Minor awards** (down 1% from 2018 when 167,408 Minor awards were made)



## NUMBER OF QQI AWARDS BY SECTOR (FET/HE)



**161,310** or the majority of awards made by QQI in 2019 were **Minor FET awards**, mostly at NFQ Level 5 (down 4% from 2018). The numbers in several classes of QQI FET awards declined in 2019 from 2018: Minor awards by 3%, Major awards by 23% and Supplemental awards by 23% (the number of these is very small). However, the number of Special Purpose awards increased by 2% from 2018

**7,804** or the majority of HE awards made by QQI in 2019 were Major awards, mostly at NFQ Levels 8 (up 10% from 2018) and 9 (up 48% from 2018). Overall, the number of HE awards made by QQI increased in 2019

FET awards TOTAL			209,440	HE awards TOTAL			10,068
Major	<b>Total</b>	29,538		Major	<b>Total</b>	7,804	
	Level 1	390			Level 6	139	
	Level 2	1,123			Level 7	1,048	
	Level 3	1,377			Level 8	3,262	
	Level 4	1,735			Level 9	3,323	
	Level 5	19,466			Level 10	32	
	Level 6	5,447					
Minor	<b>Total</b>	161,310		Minor	<b>Total</b>	390	
	Level 1	1,673			Level 6	323	
	Level 2	7,733			Level 7	13	
	Level 3	21,007		Level 8	54		
	Level 4	33,547		Special Purpose	<b>Total</b>	1,874	
	Level 5	76,219			Level 6	986	
	Level 6	21,131			Level 7	623	
			Level 8		204		
Special Purpose	<b>Total</b>	18,530		Level 9	61		
	Level 3	17					
	Level 4	289					
	Level 5	12,477					
Supplemental	<b>Total</b>	62					
	Level 6	62					

## NUMBER OF AWARDS BY FIELD OF LEARNING (ISCED) & SECTOR IN 2019



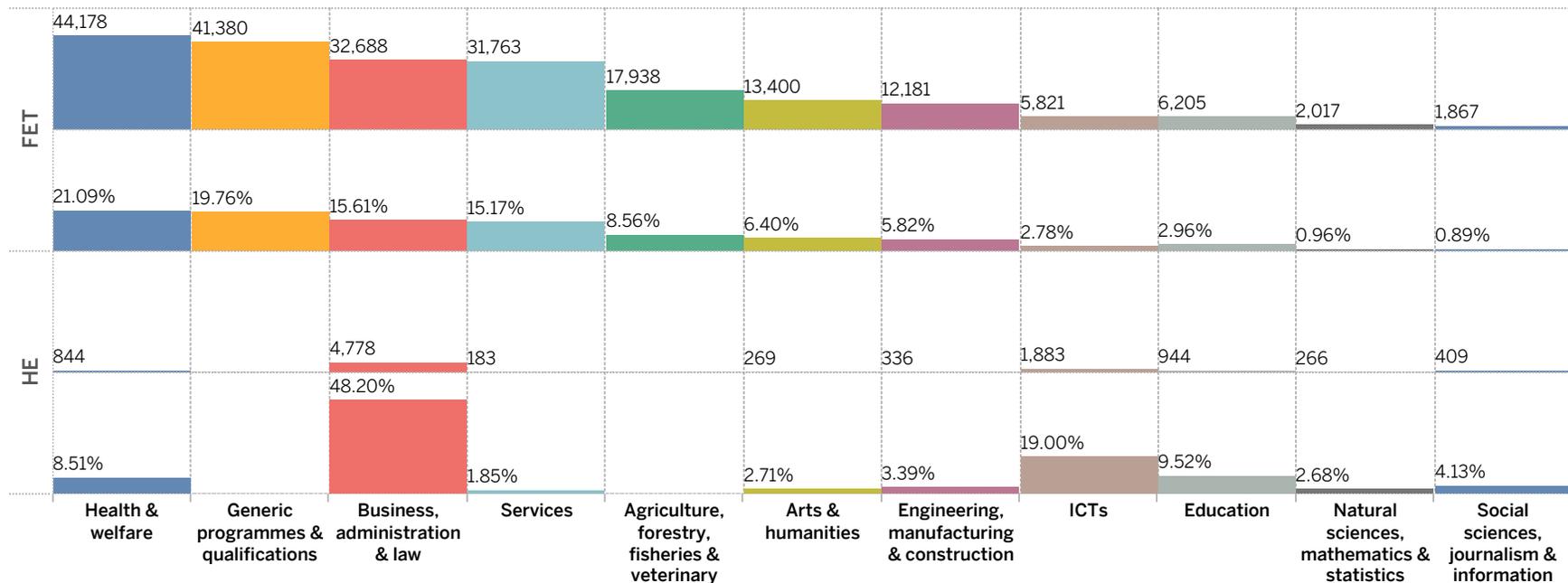
**150,009** or 72% of all **FET awards made by QQI** were in the following four fields: Health & welfare; Generic programmes & qualifications; Business, administration & law; and Services.

**Health & welfare** accounted for the largest number of FET awards made by QQI (21% of all QQI FET awards)\*

**8,449** or 84% of all **HE awards made by QQI** were in the following four fields: Business, administration & law; ICTs; Education; and Health & welfare.

**Business administration & law** accounted for the largest number of HE awards made by QQI in 2019 (48% of all awards made in HE)

No significant change has occurred since 2014 in relation to these top 4 fields



\*A large number of awards for 'childcare and youth services' (e.g. Early Learning and Care related awards) are classified under 'Healthcare and welfare' field of learning (see [ISCED classification](#)). However, there is an argument that these awards should be included in the 'Education' field instead



## TOP 15 AWARDS BY CLASS & NFQ LEVEL IN 2019



**47,547** or 29% of all **QQI Minor awards** made in 2019 were in the top 15 awards, mainly at NFQ Level 5\*. All 15 were made in FET

### TOP 15 QQI Minor awards

5N0690	Level 5	Communications	5,509
5N1356	Level 5	Work Experience	4,702
4N1118	Level 4	Guarding Skills	4,334
5N2706	Level 5	Care of the Older Person	4,071
5N2770	Level 5	Care Skills	3,974
5N1786	Level 5	Special Needs Assisting	3,544
6N1957	Level 6	Special Needs Assisting	3,425
5N1794	Level 5	Safety and Health at Work	2,950
4N1125	Level 4	Information Technology Skills	2,938
4N1114	Level 4	Door Security Procedures	2,858
3N0588	Level 3	Word Processing	2,226
5N1358	Level 5	Word Processing	2,574
5N3734	Level 5	Infection Prevention and Control	2,250
6N3326	Level 6	Training Delivery and Evaluation	2,192
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>47,547</b>

\*'Occupational First Aid' award at Level 5 was in the top 15 group for the last number of years but in 2020 it disappeared as it no longer met the statutory requirement set by the Health and Safety Authority

### TRENDS TOP 15 QQI AWARDS

These **Top 15 Minor, Major and Special Purpose** awards have been consistently the most popular awards over since 2014, and together they represent 36% of all awards awarded by QQI in 2019

All awards in the Top 15 groups are FET awards, except for the QQI Major award '**Professional Master of Education in Primary Education**', which is made in HE

The Professional Master of Education in Primary Education was introduced in 2016 as the minimum legal requirement for those wishing to work as registered teachers. This explains the higher numbers of awards made in this QQI HE award

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**16,653** or 45% of all **QQI Major awards** made in 2019 were in the top 15 awards, mainly at NFQ Level 5

### TOP 15 QQI Major awards

5M4339	Level 5	Healthcare Support	2,771
5M2009	Level 5	Early Childhood Care and Education	2,141
5M20454	Level 5	Agriculture	1,475
6M2007	Level 6	Early Childhood Care and Education	1,430
5M4349	Level 5	Nursing Studies	1,194
P2GLO	Level 2	General Learning	1,123
5M3782	Level 5	Health Service Skills	856
5M2102	Level 5	Business Studies	803
3M0935	Level 3	Employability Skills	783
5M1997	Level 5	Office Administration	778
5M5146	Level 5	Sports, Recreation and Exercise	740
5M4468	Level 5	Community Health Services	723
5M2468	Level 5	Business Administration	632
4M2010	Level 4	General Learning	606
9M18014	Level 9	Professional Master of Education in Primary Education	598
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>16,653</b>

**15,442** or 76% of all QQI **Special Purpose** awards made in 2019 were in the top 15 awards; all are made in FET at NFQ Levels 5 and 6

### TOP 15 QQI Special Purpose awards

820105	Level 5	360° Excavator Operations	1,567
821905	Level 5	Front Loading Site Dumper Operations	1,442
824905	Level 5	Signing, Lighting and Guarding at Roadworks	1,431
6S20487	Level 6	Farming	1,394
6S0242	Level 6	Manual Handling Instruction	1,346
823505	Level 5	Telescopic Handler Operations	1,328
824405	Level 5	Locating and Avoiding Underground Services	1,316
823405	Level 5	Slinger and Signaller Operations	1,248
6S3372	Level 6	Training and Development	972
826005	Level 5	Mobile Access Tower Operations	792
824305	Level 5	Health & Safety at Roadworks	696
6S15578	Level 6	Certificate in Payroll Techniques	572
5S20009	Level 5	Implementing Food Safety Management Systems	527
6S3006	Level 6	Farm Administration	451
820305	Level 5	Articulated Dumper Operations	360
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>15,442</b>

## NUMBER OF QQI AWARDS MADE BY TYPE OF PROVIDER IN 2019



**131,033** QQI FET awards were made for the 16 Education and Training Boards (ETBs) in 2019 (down 5% from 2018). ETBs account for the largest number of QQI awards made at NFQ Levels 1-5: on average, three quarters of all awards made by QQI at Levels 1-3 are for ETBs, and 64% at Levels 4 and 5

**51,390** QQI awards (less than half of those made for the ETBs and down 2% from 2018) were made for the second biggest group: private education and training providers (PRC). QQI awards made for PRCs are larger than for any other provider type at Levels 6 to 9 inclusive

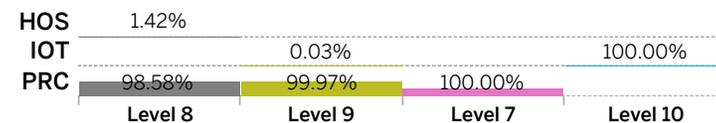
	Major	Minor	Special Purpose	Supplemental	TOTAL
ETB	21,425	105,377	4,208	23	131,033
PRC	9,939	36,193	5,219	39	51,390
SOL	1,821	2	8,810		10,633
CVS	914	9,034	153		10,101
TAG	1,816	1,568	1,472		4,856
SRB		2,673	259		2,932
CMS	483	2,099	13		2,595
CPD	266	1,960	11		2,237
SCS	249	760			1,009
SKN	94	817			911
SPS	66	555			621
HOS	146	394	50		590
PSA	24	97	189		310
IOT	93	76			169
YTS	1	70			71
BIM	5	25	20		50

### Provider type:

- BIM:** Bord Iasaigh Mhara
- CMS:** Community / Comprehensive School
- CPD:** Training for People with Disabilities
- CVS:** Community / Voluntary Sector Organisation
- ETB:** Education and Training Board
- HOS:** Hospital CNE
- IOT:** Institutes of Technology
- PRC:** Private Provider
- PSA:** Public Service Agency
- SCS:** Voluntary Secondary School
- SKN:** Skillnet
- SOL:** SOLAS
- SPS:** Special School people with Special Needs
- SRB:** Sectoral Representative Body
- TAG:** Teagasc
- YTS:** Youth Service

## DISTRIBUTION OF QQI AWARDS MADE BY TYPE OF PROVIDER & NFQ LEVELS

Provider	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
BIM					0.03%	0.06%
CMS				0.07%	1.72%	2.19%
CPD	21.28%	6.65%	4.99%	0.10%	0.01%	0.15%
CVS	2.04%	14.67%	9.24%	3.67%	3.84%	3.80%
ETB	74.36%	76.56%	77.94%	66.86%	63.62%	39.10%
HOS					0.46%	0.12%
IOT			0.21%		0.01%	0.25%
PRC			5.77%	22.34%	17.79%	39.87%
PSA					0.17%	0.40%
SCS			0.13%	0.18%	0.64%	0.70%
SKN					0.75%	0.30%
SOL					8.15%	5.63%
SPS	2.33%	2.12%	1.70%	0.01%		
SRB				6.70%	0.24%	0.90%
TAG					2.54%	6.52%
YTS			0.02%	0.06%	0.04%	

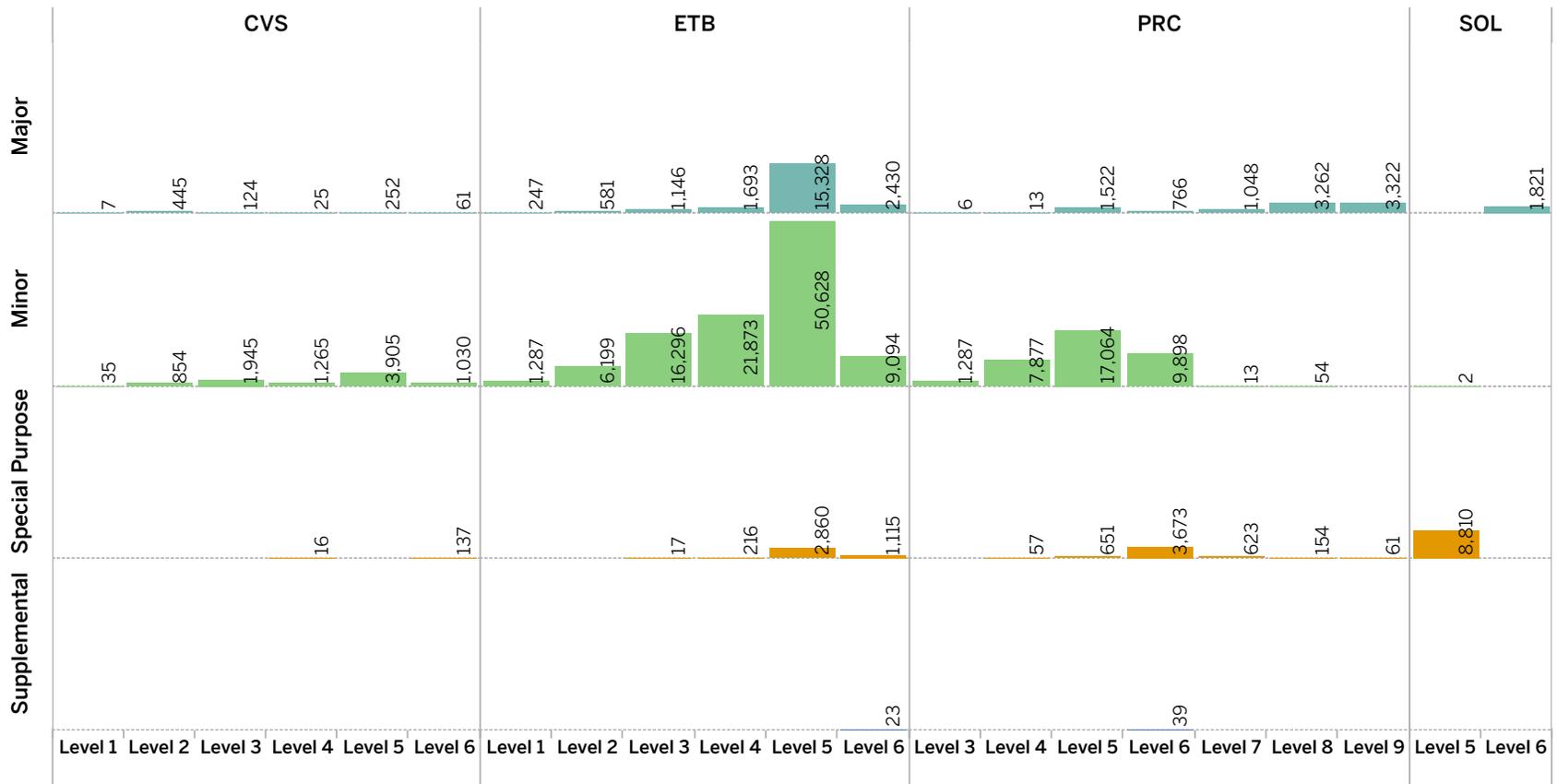


# FOUR PROVIDER TYPES BY QQI AWARDS MADE IN 2019



**203,157** awards or 93% of all QQI awards made in 2019 were issued for four types of provider: **Community / Voluntary Sector Organisation (CVS)**, **Education and Training Board (ETB)**, **Private Provider (PRC)** and **SOLAS (SOL)**. The majority were Minor awards at NFQ Level 5

All Supplemental awards in 2019 were awarded by the ETBs (23 awards) and PRCs (39), all were made at NFQ Level 6

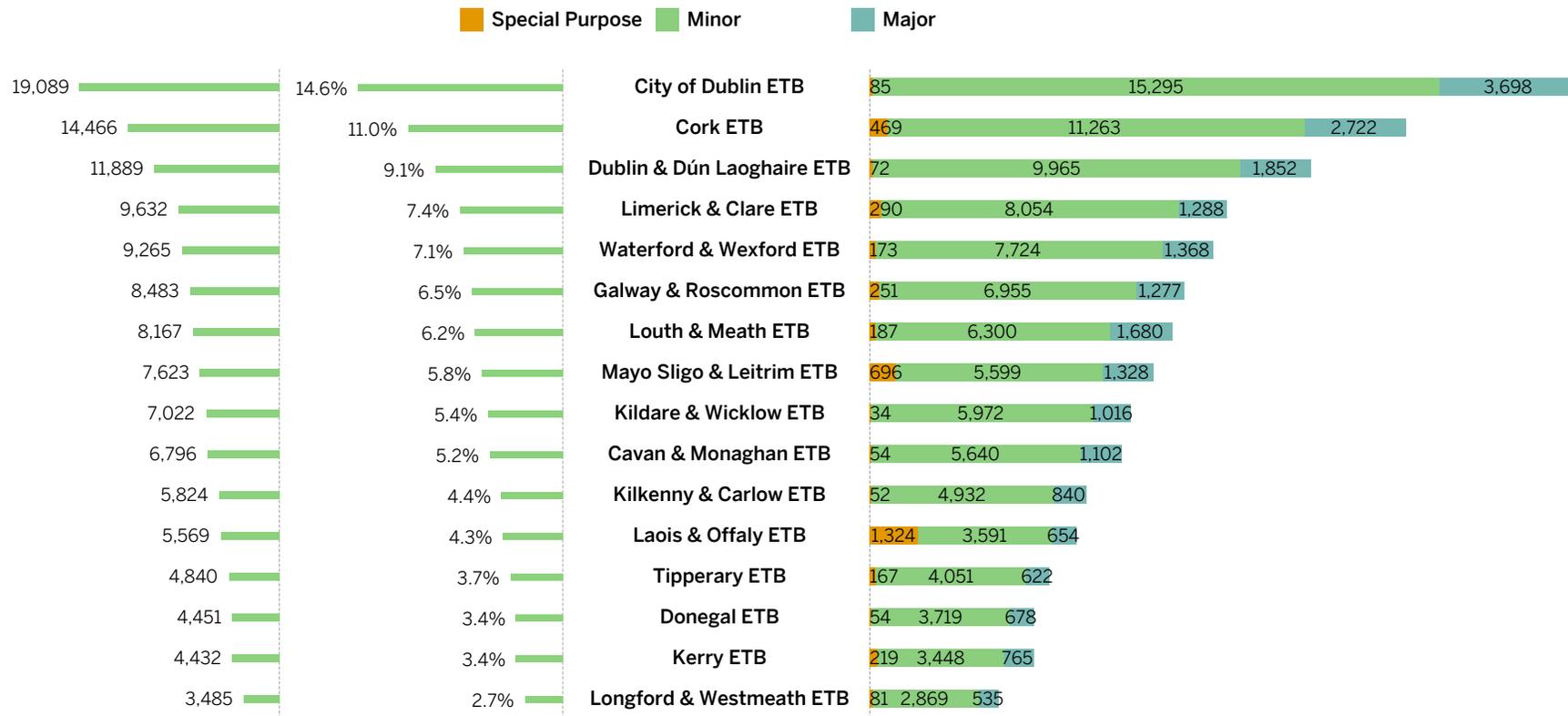


# QQI AWARDS MADE FOR THE EDUCATION & TRAINING BOARDS (ETBs) IN 2019



**19,089** QQI awards were made for the City of Dublin ETB (5% down from 2018); followed by Cork ETB (14,466 awards, down 2%) and Dublin & Dún Laoghaire (11,889 down 3%). A quarter of all awards made for the ETBs were accounted for by these three

The majority of awards made for the ETBs are **Minor awards** (on average 80% of all awards), followed by Major awards (on average 16%). Laois & Offaly ETB received more Special Purpose awards than Major awards

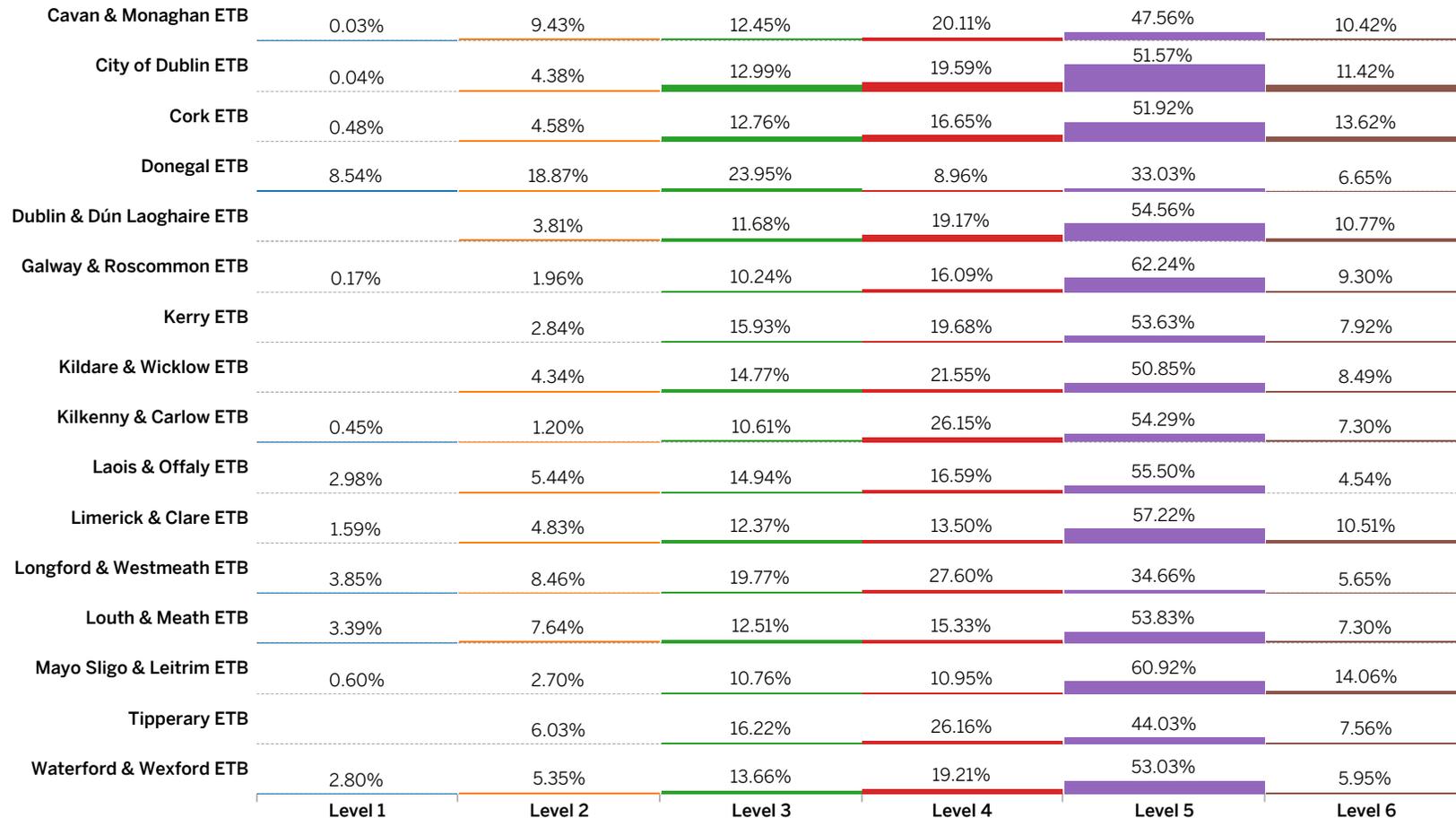


**23 Supplemental awards** were made by QQI for the ETBs (down 48% from 2018): 27 by City of Dublin ETB; and 17 by Cork ETB. All of these awards were made in 'Domestic Gas Safety' at NFQ Level 6

## DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS MADE BY QQI FOR THE ETBs BY NFQ LEVELS



**On average**, half of all awards made by the ETBs are at Level 5. Higher than average proportions of awards at Levels 1, 2 and 3 were made in Donegal ETB. Similarly, higher than average proportions of awards at Levels 3 and 4 were made in Longford & Westmeath ETB.



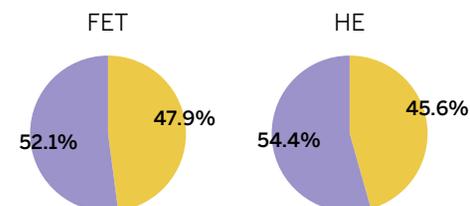
# NUMBER OF LEARNERS RECEIVING A QQI AWARD BY GENDER & AGE IN 2019



**68,107** learners achieving QQI awards were female in 2019 (52%, down 2 percentage points from 2018). 119,597 awards were achieved by these female learners



**62,214** were male learners (48%, up 2 percentages points from 2018). 99,911 awards were achieved by these male learners



More female than male learners attained QQI awards in 2019

For all classes of QQI awards, overall, the **TOTAL proportion** achieved are higher for female than for male learners. This is not the case:

- In the **FET sector**: for Major awards at NFQ Levels 2, 3 and 6; Minor awards at Level 4; and for Special Purpose (except at Level 3) and Supplemental awards
- In the **HE sector**: for Major awards at NFQ Levels 6, 9 and 10 and Minor at Level 8

