

Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee (PAOC)

Note of meeting of 17 July 2023

via

Microsoft Teams

Present: Brendan O’Dea (Acting Chair); Seán Rowland; Mark Kane; Mary Meaney; Alex Keys (Key Executive)

Apologies: Billy Bennett

In attendance: Laura McNamee (QQI)

1. Minutes of meeting of 01 November 2022

The minutes of the PAOC meeting on the 01 November 2022 were AGREED.

No new members were inducted onto the Committee.

2. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were noted.

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 ECAC

3.1.1.1 PG24893, Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Fgas Fire Extinguishant Handling, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 5 FET Credits
(PAOC/A1-2023/3.1.1.1) (Non-CAS)

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 Open Training College

3.1.2.1 PG24823, Certificate in Applied Management (Human Services), Level 6, Special Purpose Award, 60 Credits
(PAOC/A2-2022/3.1.2.1) (Non-CAS)

The item was introduced by members of the Committee, and the issues that informed the PAEC decision were discussed. The Committee acknowledged the provider's challenges; however, the panel's decision was well grounded. The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of this programme was considered and CONFIRMED.

3.1.3 Optima Training and Consultancy Ltd

3.1.3.1 PG24892, Certificate in Health & Safety Representation, Level 5, Minor Award, 15 FET Credits, CAS Award
(PAOC/A2-2022/3.1.3.1) (CAS)

The item was introduced by members of the Committee, and the issues that informed the PAEC decision were discussed. The Committee noted the expert panel raised concerns about the programme and the provider themselves identified shortcomings in their application based on the criteria for validation. The Committee confirmed they agreed with the panel's decision. The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of this programme was considered and CONFIRMED.

3.1.4 Steer Training Academy

3.1.4.1 PG24895, Healthcare Assistant Training, Level 5, Major Award, 120 FET Credits
(PAOC/A2-2022/3.1.4.1) (CAS)

The item was introduced by members of the Committee, and the issues that informed the PAEC decision were discussed. The Committee noted that there were challenges but the rationale for the decision was clear and satisfactory. A member of the Committee asked a question about the complaints process. The Executive clarified the complaints process. A Committee member asked if the site visits were recorded. The Executive also confirmed that virtual site visits are not recorded due to GDPR reasons. The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of this programme was considered and CONFIRMED.

3.1.5 City Education Group

3.1.5.1 PG24747, Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Information & Communications Technology, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits

PG24753, Bachelor of Science in Information & Communications Technology,
Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits

PG24752, Higher Certificate in Science in Information & Communications Technology, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits
(PAOC/A2-2022/3.1.5.1) (Non-CAS)

The item was introduced by members of the Committee, and the issues that informed the PAEC decision were discussed. The Committee noted that the provider intends to resubmit the programmes. A member of the Committee asked a question about potential conflicts of interest. The Executive clarified that providers are given an opportunity to identify any conflicts of interest before a panel is confirmed. The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of these programmes was considered and CONFIRMED.

4. Any Other Business

The Executive informed the Committee that the next PAOC meeting may take place in October or November. The Executive confirmed that a new Chair will be appointed ahead of the next meeting and that the Executive are requesting additional members be added to the Committee.

Mary Meaney enquired when her term in office is ending. The Executive will follow up and confirm the date.

As there was no other business, the meeting ended.