

National Qualifications Authority of Ireland

Meeting in Authority Offices

Wednesday 8 July 2009

Present:

Mr. Paul Haran (Chairperson)
Dr. Caroline Hussey (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms. Inez Bailey
Dr. Seán Conlan
Mr. Tony Donohoe
Mr. Peter Mannion
Prof. Anne Moran
Mr. Donal O'Rourke
Mr. Martin Shanahan
Prof. Seamus Smyth
Dr. Jim Murray (Chief Executive)

Apologies:

Mr. Mogens Berg
Mr. Eamon Devoy
Mr. Pat O'Callaghan

In attendance:

Ms. Claire Byrne (Director of Corporate Affairs and Communications)
Prof. Tom Collins (Chair of the Framework Implementation and Impact Study Team) (Item 4)
Dr. Anna Murphy (Director of Research and Strategic Development) (Item 4)
Ms. Trish O'Brien (Head of Framework Implementation and Qualifications Recognition)

The Chairperson welcomed Peter Mannion, the new President of USI and new member of the Authority.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2009 were agreed and signed.

2. Budget/ Financial

The Authority noted the paper prepared and circulated by the executive.

The Authority noted that the Comptroller and Auditor General had completed the audit of the Authority's draft financial statements for 2008. The Authority noted that the Comptroller and Auditor General expects to 'clear' the 2008 financial statements in July 2009. The Authority approved the annual compliance statement which will be furnished to the Minister following receipt of the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

3. Communications and Use of Framework

The Authority noted the paper prepared and circulated by the executive.

The Authority noted that a revised description of the NFQ had been passed by the CAO Operations Group and is now included in the 2010 CAO handbook. It was noted that the Authority, in collaboration with the HEA and CAO, was providing an NFQ insert is to be included in a mail-shot to all CAO applicants in July 2009.

3. International Recognition of Awards – EQF Referencing

The Authority noted the paper that had been prepared by the executive.

The Authority noted the update on the Report on the referencing of the NFQ to the EQF and the planned event to mark and publicise the completion of the referencing process and EQF more generally. The event is scheduled to take place on 17 September 2009 in Dublin. The Minister for Education and Science, Mr. Batt O'Keeffe, T.D., and Mr. Ján Figel, the European Commissioner responsible for Education, Training, Culture and Youth will attend. The Authority also noted the range of the Authority's ongoing international engagement on Framework alignments and recognition agreements which include projects with New Zealand, United Arab Emirates, Australia and Malaysia.

4. Framework Implementation and Impact Study

The Authority noted the paper that had been prepared by the executive, the Report prepared by the Framework Implementation and Impact Study Team and an updated risk profile and action plan.

Professor Tom Collins, the Chair of the Study Team made a presentation to the Authority on the outcomes of the Study. This was followed by an open discussion on the Study, the Report findings and recommendations. The Authority considered the Report and agreed to adopt and publish the Report, subject to the inclusion of any factual amendments from the coordinators which are received subsequently. The Authority agreed that the final Report will be published with a press statement in September. The Authority acknowledged the importance of the report to its future work, and the publication in September will allow for a full consideration of the report and, following its publication, discussions with stakeholders.

The Authority noted that the executive had analysed the outcomes of the Study against the Authority's current risk profile and action plan. The updated risk profile and action plan was considered and agreed by the Authority.

11. Meeting dates

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 1 October 2009 at 11.00am in the Authority's offices on Jervis Street.

The meeting concluded.

Chairperson_____ **Date:**_____