

New Arrangements Applying to HETAC Providers and Prospective Providers

Following the publication of the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Bill 2011 which provides for the establishment of a new single national agency, Qualifications and Quality Assurance Ireland (QQAI) replacing HETAC, FETAC, NQAI and IUQB, HETAC has announced new arrangements for applications which may be of interest to existing and prospective HETAC providers.

The Bill provides for significant continuity of function between HETAC and the new agency. Learners and providers can take comfort that their existing programme validations and awards offered by HETAC will continue to be recognised by the new agency. In the light of the necessary preparations for the amalgamation and to ensure quality of service to our providers over the coming period it is necessary to introduce the following deadlines:

- Current HETAC providers wishing to introduce new HETAC-validated programmes (including collaborative and/or transnational programmes) in 2012 should make their applications for HETAC-administered validation reviews by 30 November 2011. Resubmissions of programmes already reviewed will continue to be accepted.
- Application for registration as a HETAC provider will be accepted up to 30 September 2011. HETAC will not arrange any further briefings for prospective applicants after that date until the new legislation is in operation.
- Institutes of Technology wishing to apply for extensions to delegated authority should do so before 30 November 2011.
- Learners seeking direct awards from HETAC on the basis of portfolios of prior learning should apply before 30 September 2011.

The dates specified must be complied with and cannot be extended.

HETAC looks forward to the amalgamation and working with our stakeholders in building on the work to date and in the performance of the functions of the new amalgamated body.

28 July 2011