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# Quality Assuring National Apprenticeship Programmes in Ireland

Alex Keys  
Bryan Maguire

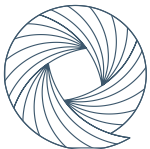
# Covering ...

## ***Bryan Maguire***

- 🕒 Who we are & what we do
- 🕒 The Irish NFQ & EQF
- 🕒 Scale of Apprenticeships in Ireland

## ***Alex Keys***

- 🕒 National Apprenticeship Process

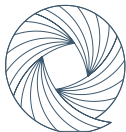
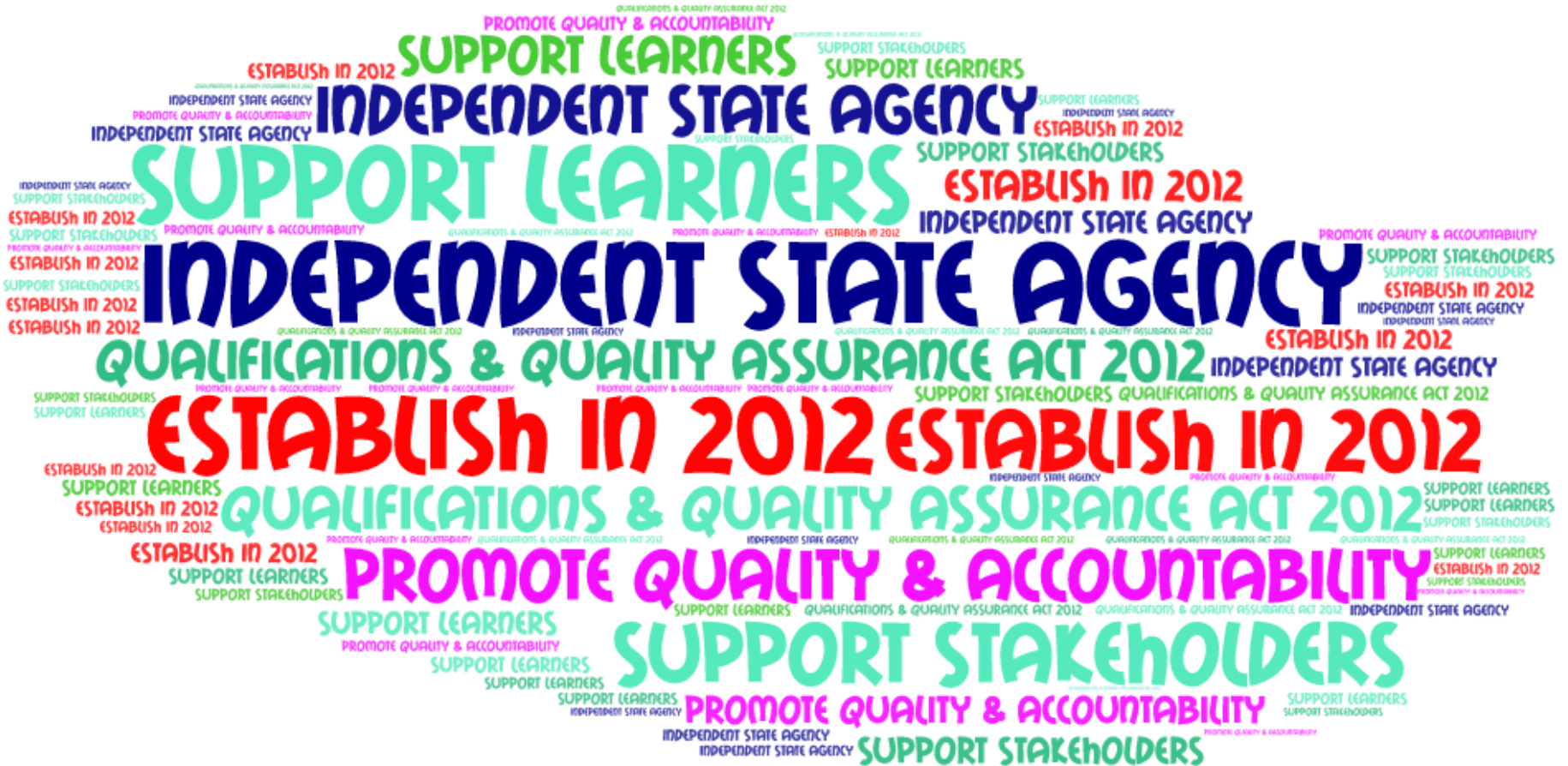


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# Who We are ...



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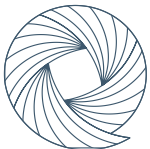
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# Quality & Qualifications Ireland (QQI)

- Established November 2012
- A single agency responsible for external quality assurance (QA) processes across all levels of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) in post secondary education and training



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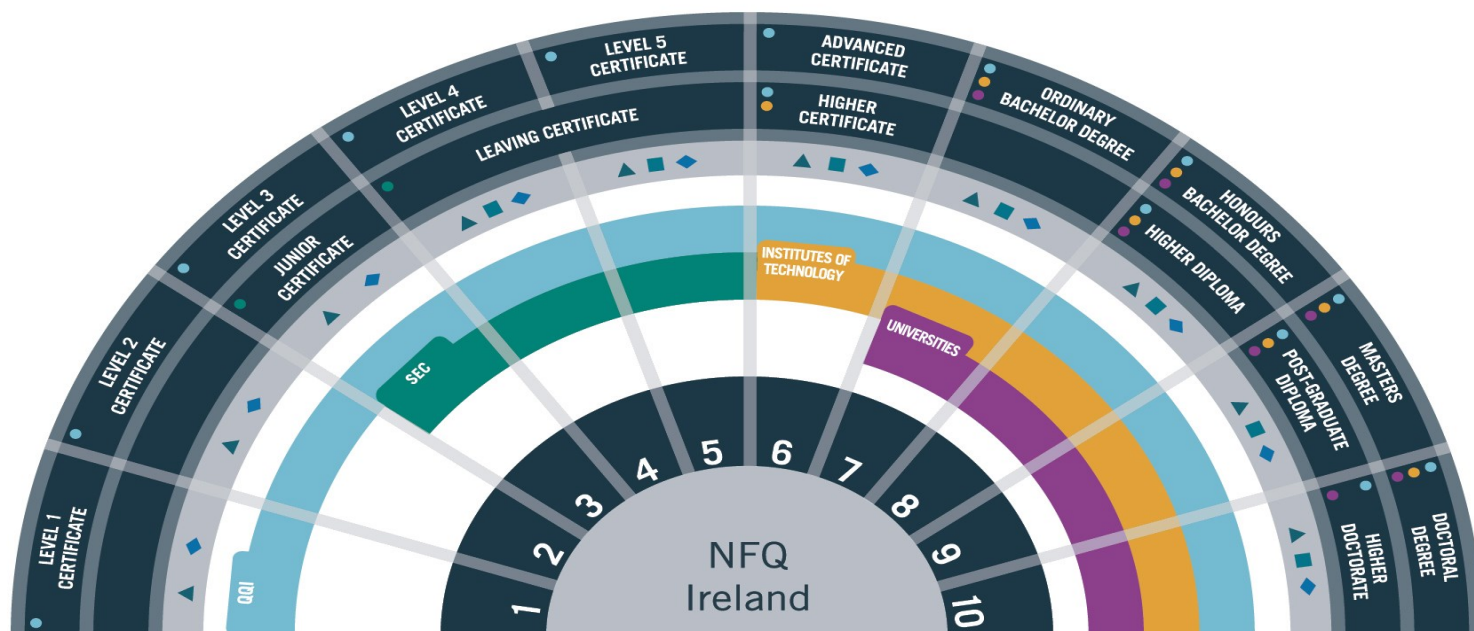


## What We Do ...

- Maintenance of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)
- Development and Maintenance of FET Award Standards
- Development of Quality Assurance Guidelines for FET Providers
- Validation and certification of programmes of FET providers
- Institutional Quality Assurance of FET providers
- Operation of NARIC Ireland for inward and outward recognition advice for qualifications



# The Irish NFQ



## AWARDING BODIES

- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) makes awards in further and higher education and training
- SEC - State Examinations Commission (Department of Education and Skills)
- Institutes of Technology
- Universities

## AWARDS IN THE FRAMEWORK

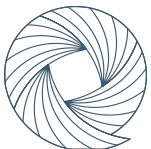
There are four classes of award in the National Framework of Qualifications:



- Major Awards:** named in the outer rings, are the principal class of awards made at a level
- Minor Awards:** are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award
- Supplemental Awards:** are for learning that is additional to a Major Award
- Special Purpose Awards:** are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement

# POLL

What one word would  
you use to describe  
apprenticeship?



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# Number of Apprenticeships

🕒 **58** developed apprenticeships:

🕒 **21 HET**

🕒 UL – Principal Engineer (L10), Supply Chain Manager (L9)

🕒 NCI – Recruitment Executive (L8)

🕒 TU Dublin – CGI Technical Artist (L8)

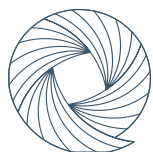
🕒 **37 FET**

🕒 ATI – Accounting Technician

🕒 CDETБ – Auctioneering & Property Services

🕒 RIS – Retail Supervision

🕒 **15 in development**



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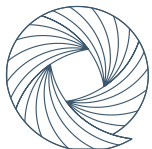
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# QQI Awarded and Validated

- 🕒 awarded 8,968 apprentices since 2015 (Table 1)
- 🕒 validated 32 apprenticeship programmes, 29 FET apprenticeship programmes (17 craft, 12 consortia-led)
- 🕒 validated 3 HET apprenticeship (Table 2)
- 🕒 8 new apprenticeships are expected



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# Table 1 - Apprentices QQI Awarded

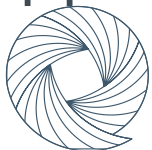
Provider	Award Code	Title	Awarded
Accounting Technicians Ireland	6M20617	Advanced Certificate in Accounting	44
National College of Ireland	6M20520	Higher Certificate in International Financial Services	24
National College of Ireland	8M20516	Higher Diploma in Financial Services Analytics	12
Solas	6M18174	Craft - Carpentry and Joinery	62
Solas	6M18175	Craft - Electrical	436
Solas	6M18176	Craft - Plumbing	56
Solas	6M18194	Craft - Metal Fabrication	71
Solas	6M18195	Craft - Heavy Vehicle Mechanic	61
Solas	930406	Craft - Agricultural Mechanics	163
Solas	930506	Craft - Aircraft Mechanics	117
Solas	930706	Craft - Brick and Stonelaying	55
Solas	930806	Craft - Cabinet Making	20
Solas	930906	Craft - Carpentry and Joinery	593
Solas	931106	Craft - Construction Plant Fitting	228
Solas	931206	Craft - Electrical Instrumentation	176
Solas	931306	Craft - Electrical	2259
Solas	931406	Craft - Fitting	610
Solas	931506	Craft - Floor and Wall Tiling	3
Solas	931606	Craft - Heavy Vehicle Mechanics	381
Solas	931706	Craft - Instrumentation	31
Solas	931806	Craft - Metal Fabrication	421
Solas	931906	Craft - Motor Mechanics	1217
Solas	932106	Craft - Painting and Decorating	35
Solas	932206	Craft - Plastering	48
Solas	932306	Craft - Plumbing	883
Solas	932506	Craft - Refrigeration and Air Conditioning	216
Solas	932606	Craft - Sheet Metal Working	65
Solas	932706	Craft - Toolmaking	258
Solas	932806	Craft – Vehicle Body Repairs	135
Solas	936806	Craft - Industrial Insulation	19
Solas	936906	Craft - Electronic Security Systems	88
Solas	937006	Craft - Farriery	19
Solas	937106	Craft - Print Media	28
Solas	937406	Craft - Stonecutting	10
Solas	937706	Craft - Pipefitting	35
Solas	937806	Craft - Wood Manufacturing and Finishing	77
Solas	938006	Craft – Stonecutting and Stonemasonry	12
		Total since 2015	8,968

# Table 2- Programmes QQI Validated

Programme	NFQ Level	Duration	COORDINATING PROVIDER	FET / HET	AB
Advanced Certificate in Accounting	6	2 years	Accounting Technicians Ireland	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate in Original Equipment Manufacturing	6	3 years	Cavan & Monaghan Education and Training Board	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate in Auctioneering and Property Services	6	2 years	City of Dublin Education and Training Board	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate in CyberSecurity	6	2 years	Fast Track into Information Technology	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate in Computer Programming	6	2 years	Fast Track into Information Technology	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate in Computer Networking	6	2 years	Fast Track into Information Technology	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate in Culinary Arts	6	2 years	Kerry Education and Training Board	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate in Hairdressing	6	3 years	Limerick & Clare Education and Training Board	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate in Sales	6	2 years	Mayo Sligo & Leitrim Education and Training Board	FET	QQI
Certificate in Craft Butchery	5	2 Years	Mayo Sligo & Leitrim Education and Training Board	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate in Retail Supervision	6	2 years	Retail Ireland Skillnet	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate Craft Electrical Instrumentation	6	4 years	Solas	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate Craft Industrial Insulation	6	4 Years	Solas	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate Craft Electronic Security Systems	6	4 years	Solas	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate Craft Farriery	6	4 Years	Solas	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate Craft Instrumentation	6	4 Years	Solas	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate Craft Tool Making	6	4 Years	Solas	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate Craft Wood Manufacturing and Finishing	6	4 Years	Solas	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate Craft Brick and Stone Laying	6	4 Years	Solas	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate Craft Mechanical Automation and Maintenance Fitting	6	4 Years	Solas	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate Craft Vehicle Body Repair	6	4 Years	Solas	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate Craft Sheet Metal Working	6	4 Years	Solas	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate Craft Agricultural Mechanics	6	4 years	Solas	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate Craft Metal Fabrication	6	4 years	Solas	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate Craft Electrical	6	4 years	Solas	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate Craft Carpentry and Joinery	6	4 years	Solas	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate Craft Heavy Vehicle Mechanics	6	4 years	Solas	FET	QQI
Advanced Certificate Craft Plumbing	6	4 years	Solas	FET	QQI
Higher Certificate in International Financial Services	6	2 years	National College of Ireland	HET	QQI
Higher Diploma in Financial Services Analytics	8	2 Years	National College of Ireland	HET	QQI
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Recruitment Practice	8	3 years	National College of Ireland	HET	QQI

# Apprenticeship Recommendation (*European Framework*)

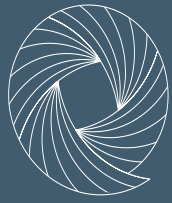
- The Council adopted a recommendation on a framework for quality and effective apprenticeships which will help young people to enter the world of work.
- The recommendation encourages the development of a highly skilled and qualified workforce which is responsive to the needs of the labour market. By applying common criteria for the quality and effectiveness of apprenticeships, member states will be better able to develop and promote their national apprenticeship schemes.



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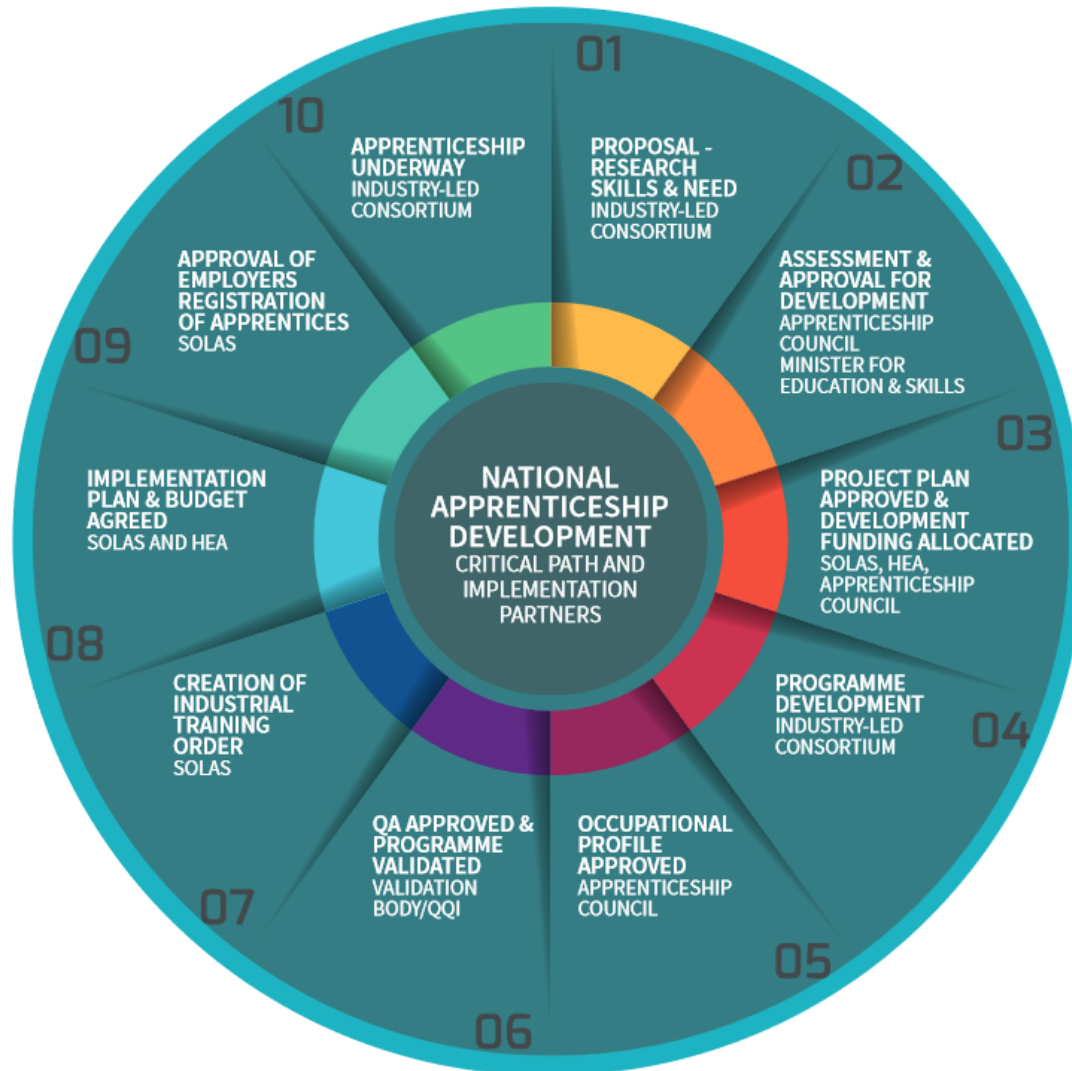
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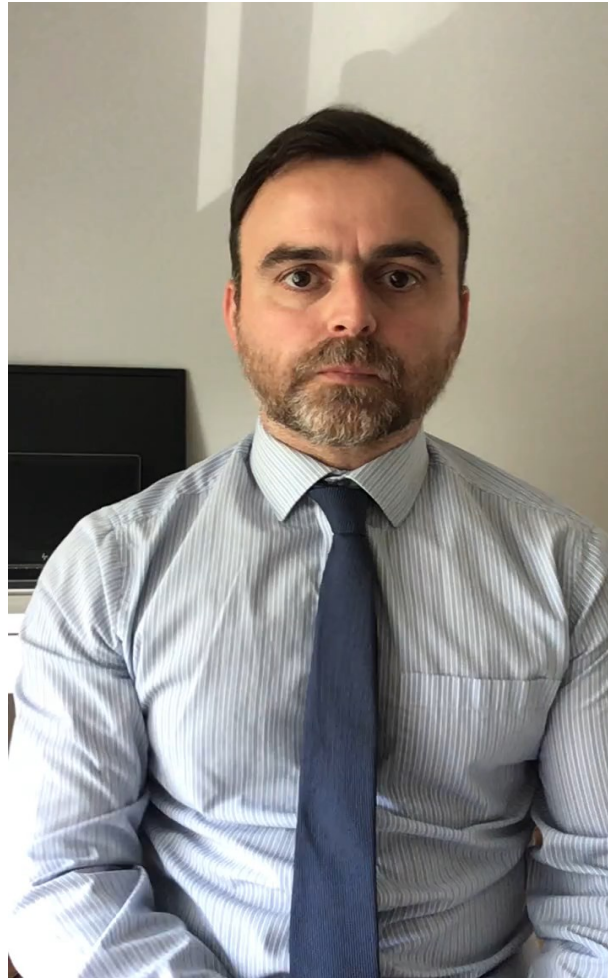




# Ensuring Quality ... *overall system*



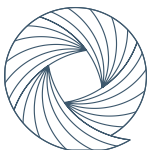
# SOLAS – Alan McGrath



# POLL

**Does your agency involve employers in the accreditation process for an apprenticeship programme?**

Answer: Yes or No



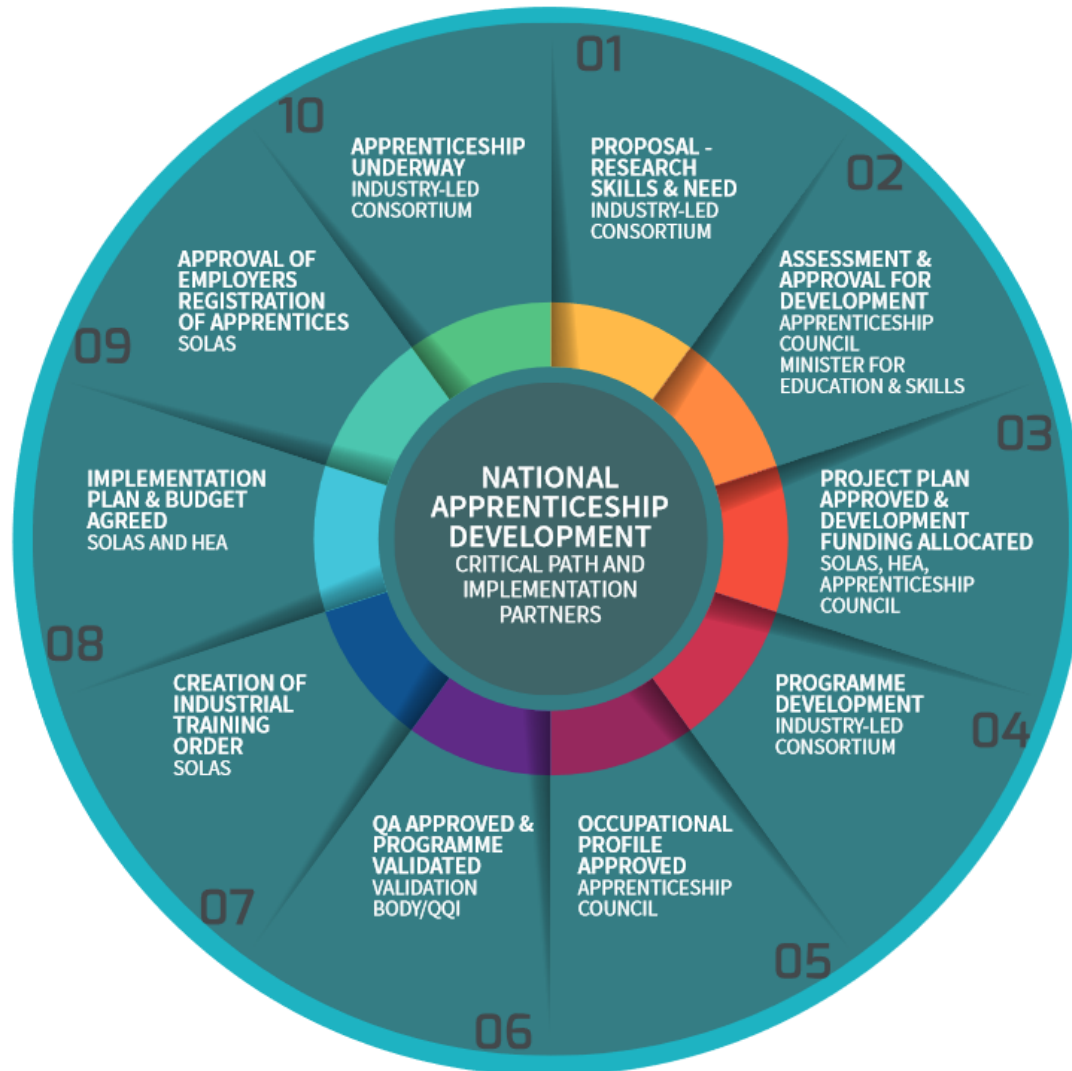
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# Ensuring Quality ... CSG



# Consortium Steering Group - Siobhan Kinsella (Noel Recruitment)



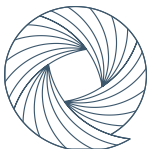


# POLL

## How involved are employers once an apprenticeship programme has been validated?

Answer:

- 1 – Never involved
- 2 – Rarely involved
- 3 – Sometimes involved
- 4 – Often involved
- 5 – Always involved



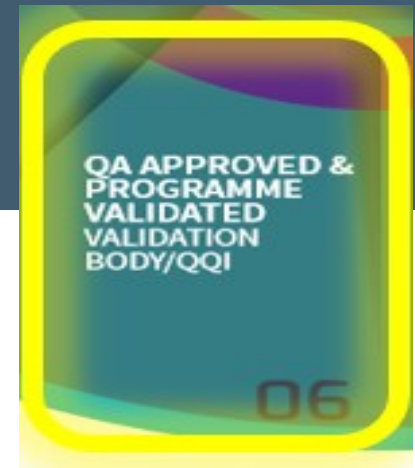
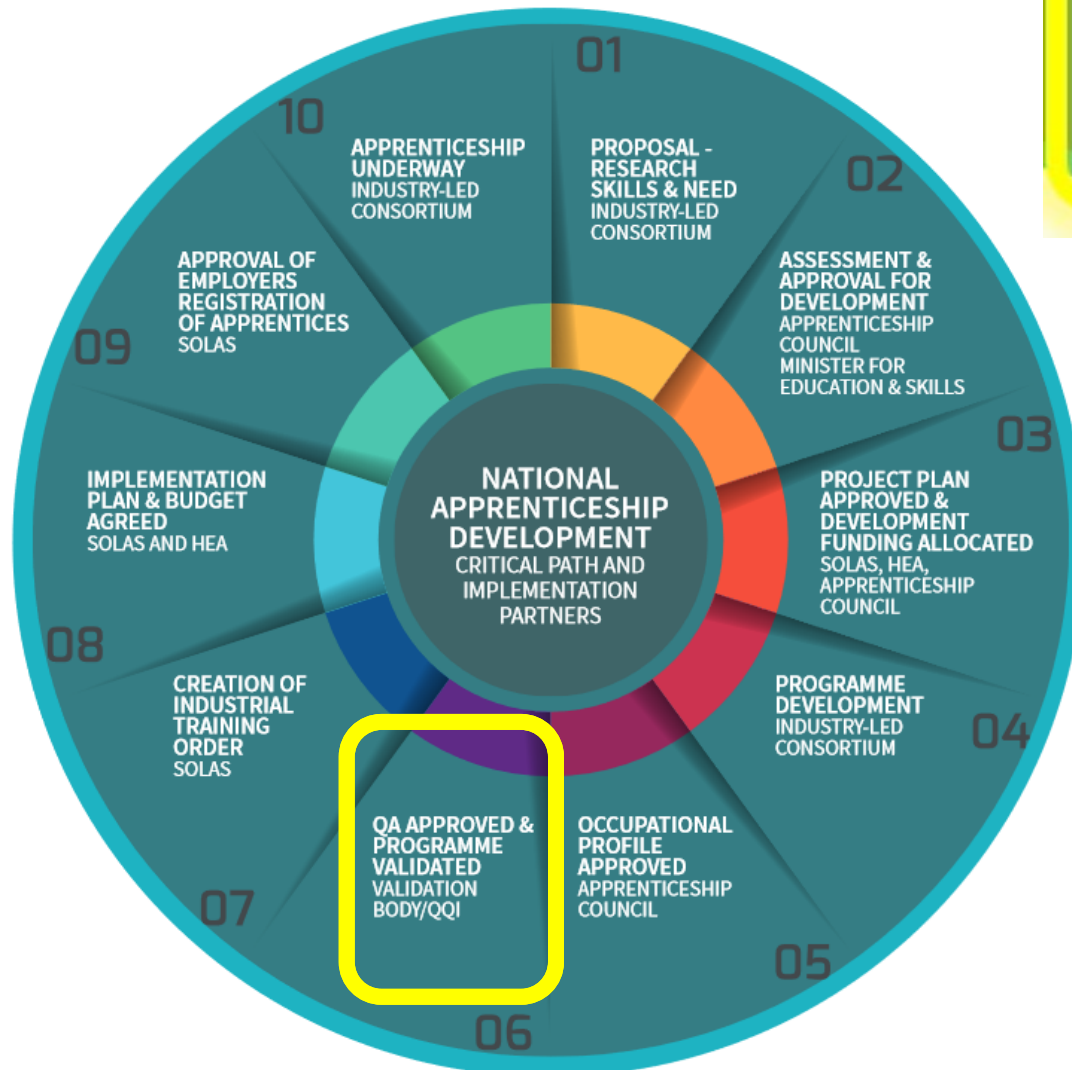
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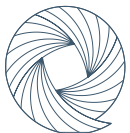
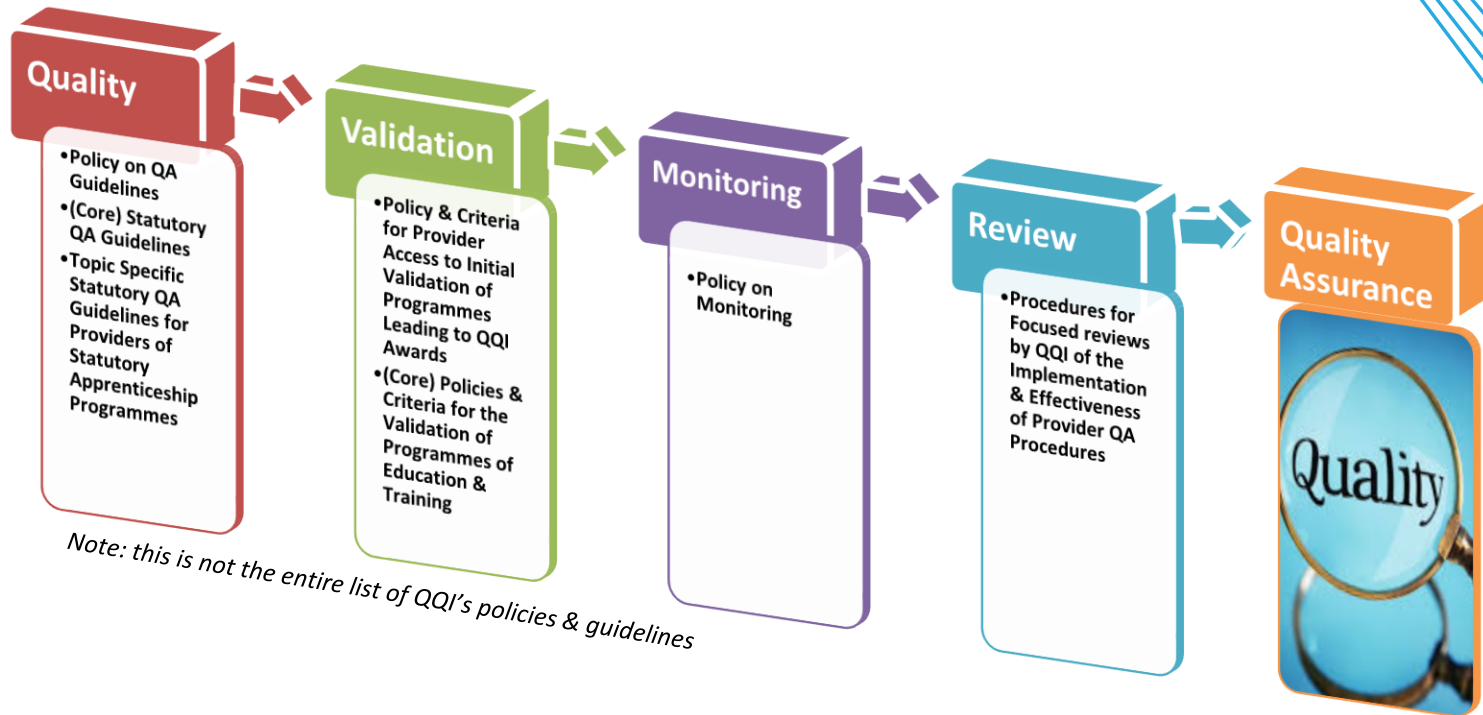
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# Ensuring Quality ...



# Ensuring Quality ...



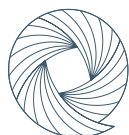
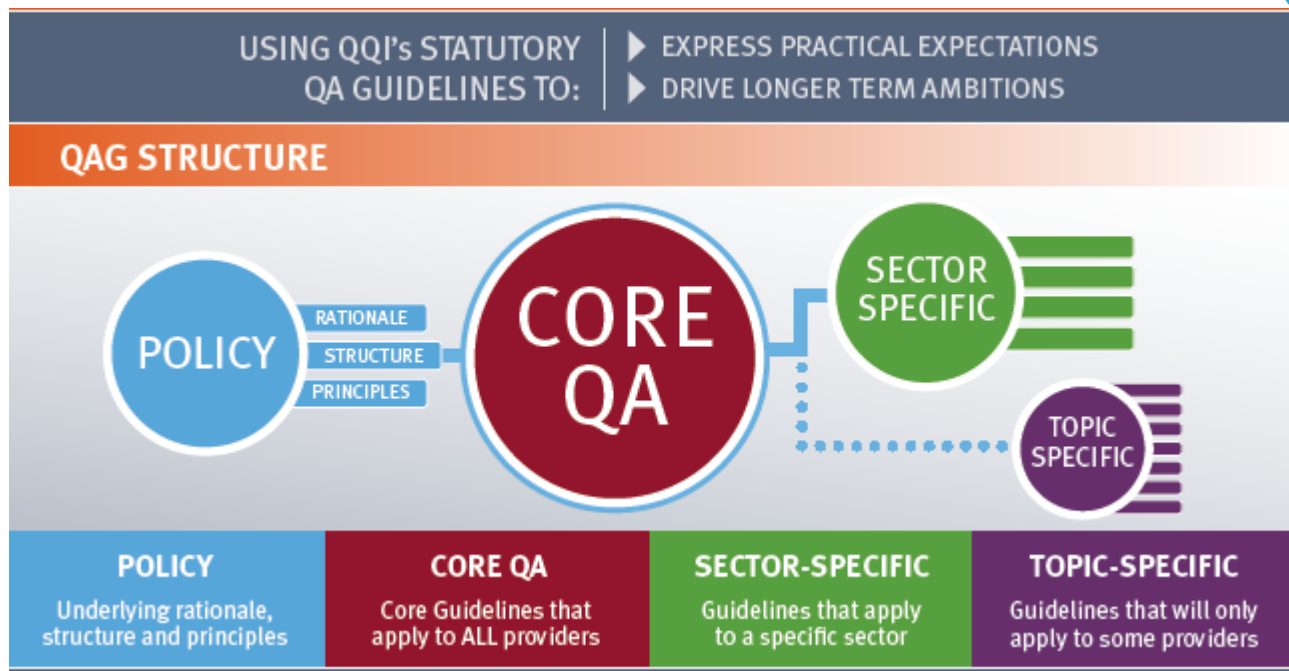
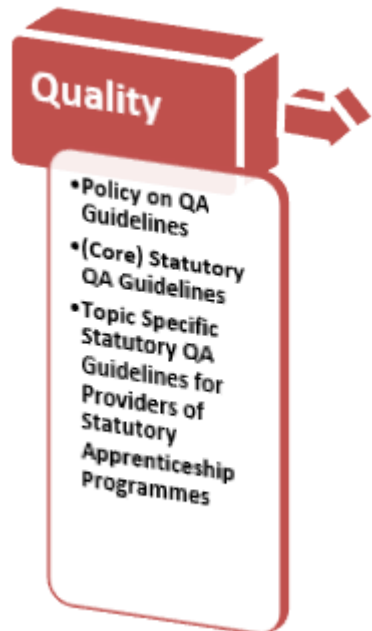
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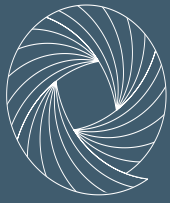
# Ensuring Quality ...



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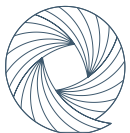
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# The Validation Journey ...





# The Validation Journey ...



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# Coordinating Provider – Gabriela Airini (ATI)



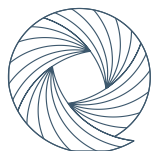
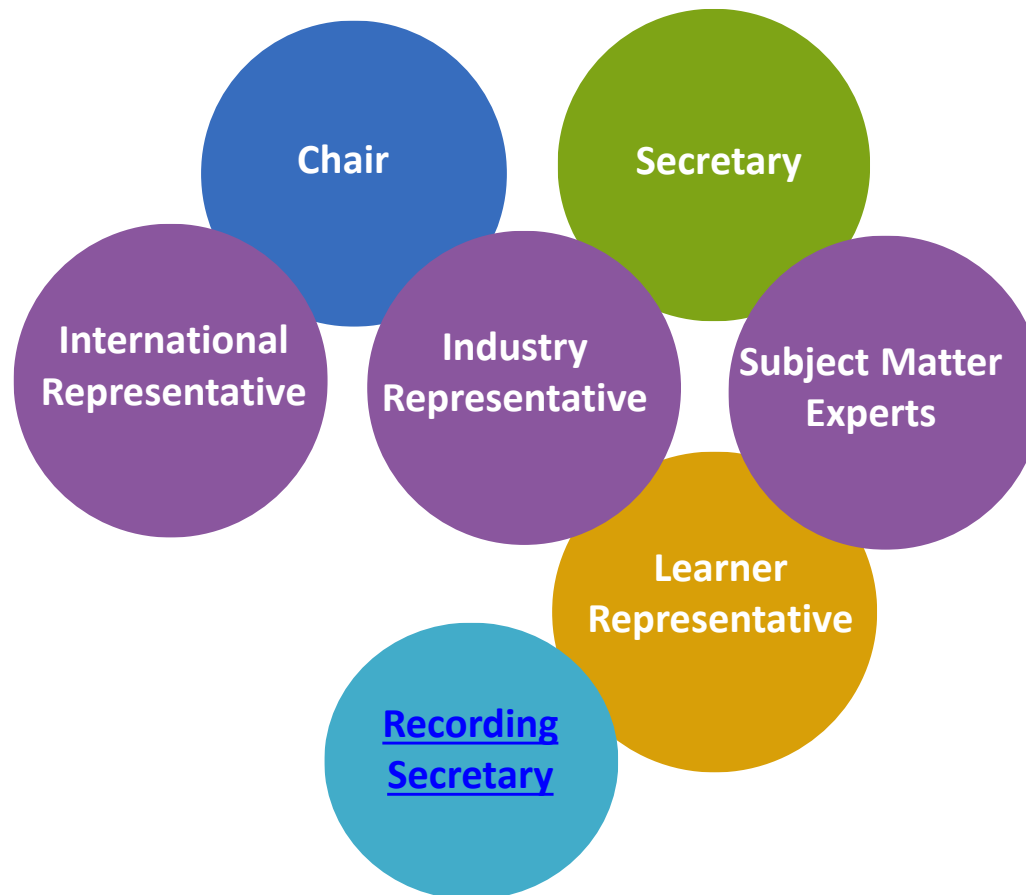
# Core Validation Criteria

No.	Criterion
1	Provider – eligible to apply for validation of programme?
2	Programme objectives and outcomes – clear and consistent with the QQI awards sought?
3	Programme concept, implementation strategy, its interpretation of QQI awards standards – well informed and soundly based?
4	Programme’s access, transfer and progression arrangements – satisfactory?
5	Programme’s written curriculum – well structured and fit-for-purpose?
6	Programme staff – qualified and capable? Sufficient to implement programme as planned?
7	Physical resources – sufficient to implement programme as planned?
8	Learning environment – consistent with the needs of the programme’s learners?
9	Teaching and learning strategies – are they sound?
10	Assessment strategies – are they sound?
11	Enrolled learners – well informed, guided and cared for?
12	Is the programme well-managed?

# Panel Composition

**Pedagogical  
expertise**

**Gender  
balance**



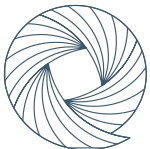
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# Panel ...

- 🕒 Confidentiality
- 🕒 No conflict of interest
- 🕒 Invest time in preparation
- 🕒 Participate in all relevant activities
- 🕒 Question findings & evidence
- 🕒 Professional conduct



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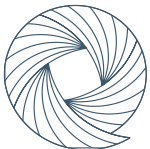
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# Conflicts of Interest



Disclosure of panel member identities and declared interests (if any) to the provider is purely for the purpose of ensuring that all interests have been declared. The ultimate decision in respect of selecting the panel remains with [QQI](#).



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# Conflicts of Interest

What is considered an interest?

What *could* be perceived as an interest?

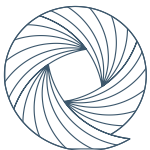
Panel member has held an appointment in the organisation where a review will be conducted

Panel member has a direct financial interest in the provider

Panel member has participated in joint projects with provider

Panel member is employed by a direct competitor of the provider

All declared interests must be included in the Independent Evaluation Report (IER), which is published once a final decision in respect of validation has been [reached](#).



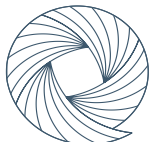
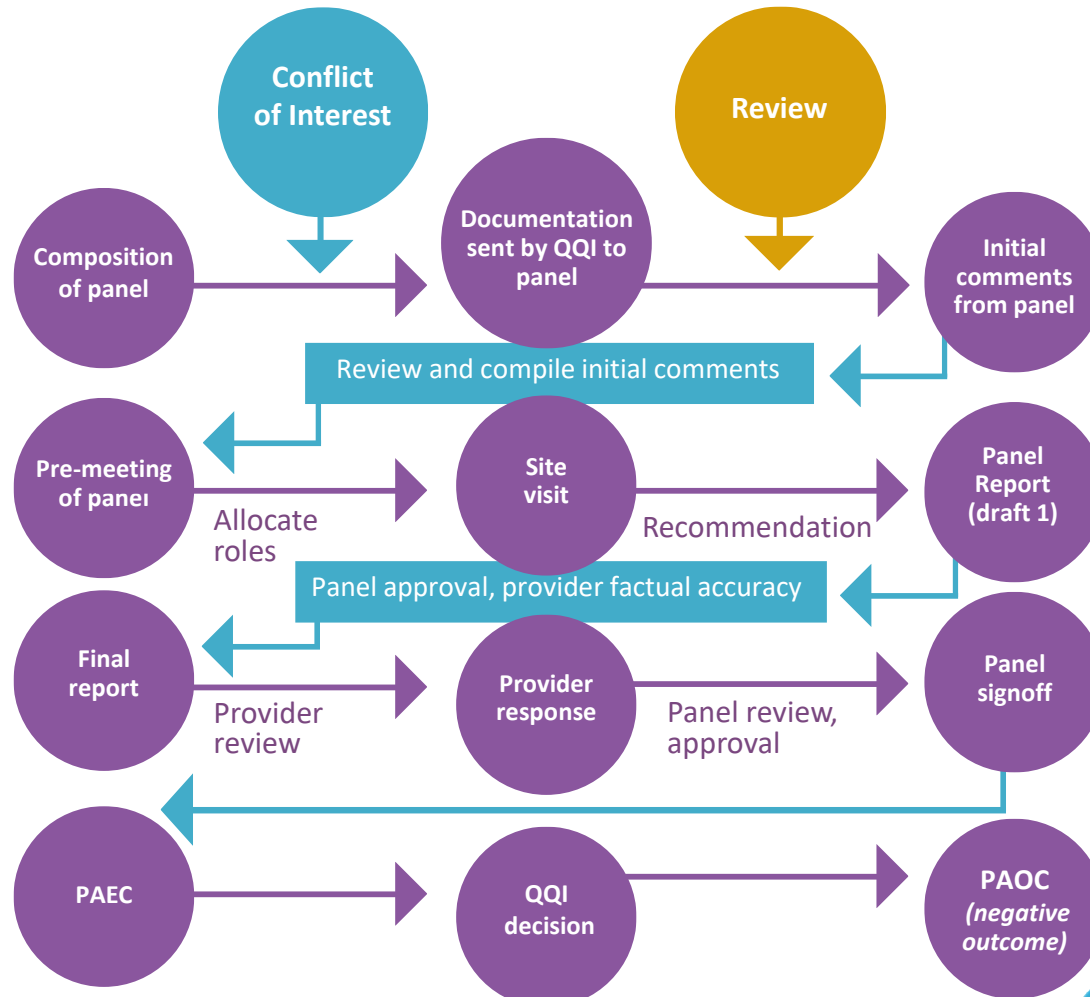
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# Time Commitment



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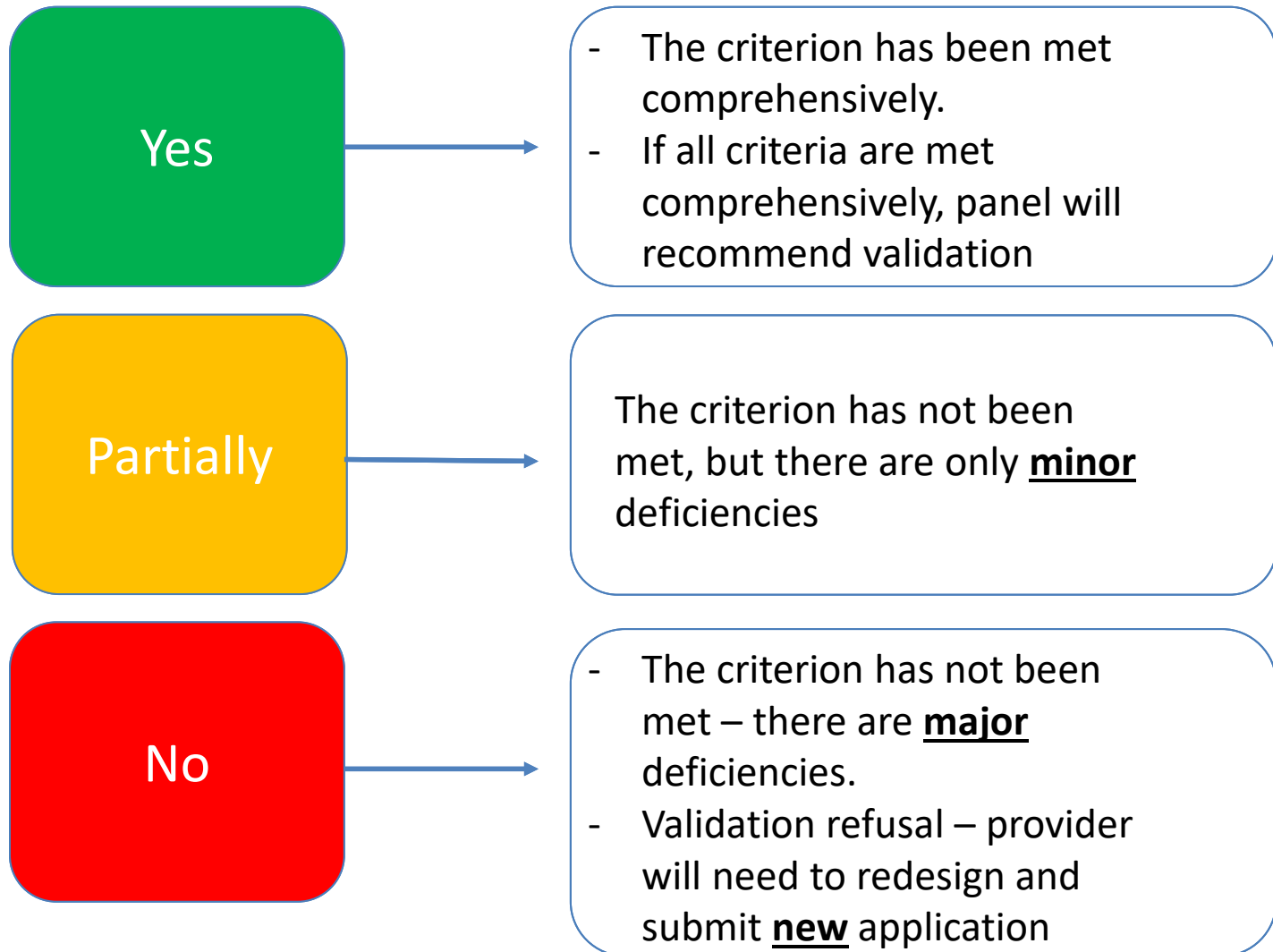
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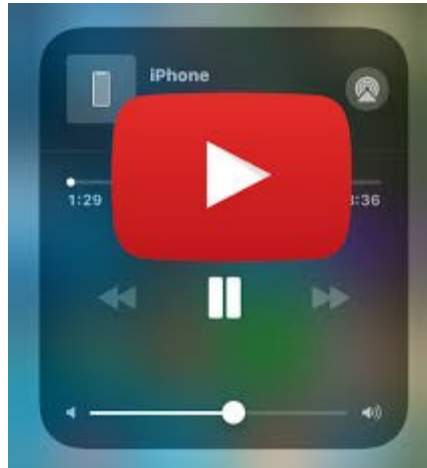


# The Panel Findings ...

The panel considers whether each criterion has been met satisfactorily:



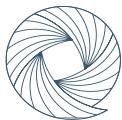
# Coordinating Provider – Scaffolding



# Top Tips ...

## Importance of:

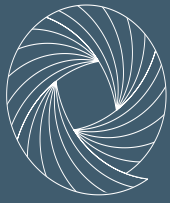
- **Governance (what you do)**
- **Quality Assurance (how you doing it)**
- **Collaboration (all stakeholders)**
- **Consortium Steering Group (guardian)**



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**QQI – adding value to qualifications**

**Thank you**