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# External Evaluation in VET:

## Standards, Methodologies, Actors & Consequences

PLA on “Balancing Self-Evaluation with External Evaluation in VET Systems  
Across Europe”:

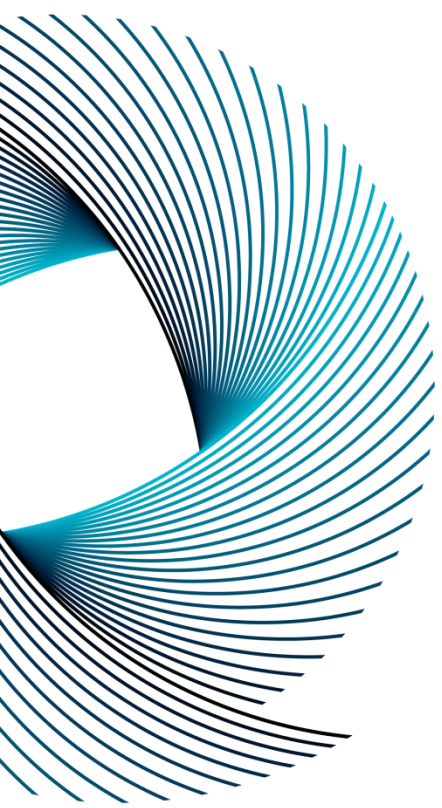
*Ljubljana, Slovenia: 21-22 January 2019*



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# Overview



QQI Status & Remit



National VET Context



Current Evaluation Practices



Developing a New Framework  
for Periodic Review



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# QQI: What we do ....



- Providers
- Programmes leading to QQI Awards

- QQI is an Awarding Body

- Irish National Framework of Qualifications (10 Levels)

- International recognition of qualifications
- International Education Mark

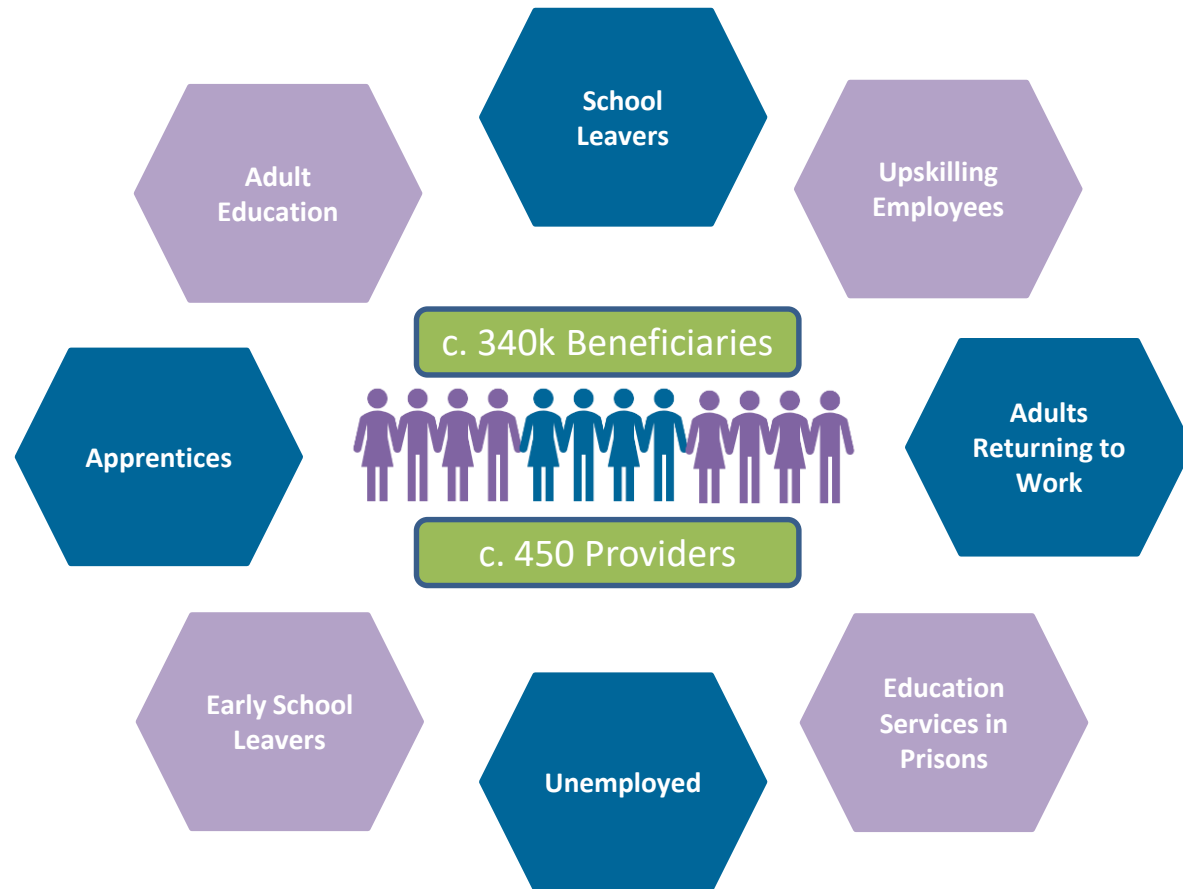


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# VET in Ireland

Wide range of learners and motivations (NFQ 1-6 /EQF 1-5)

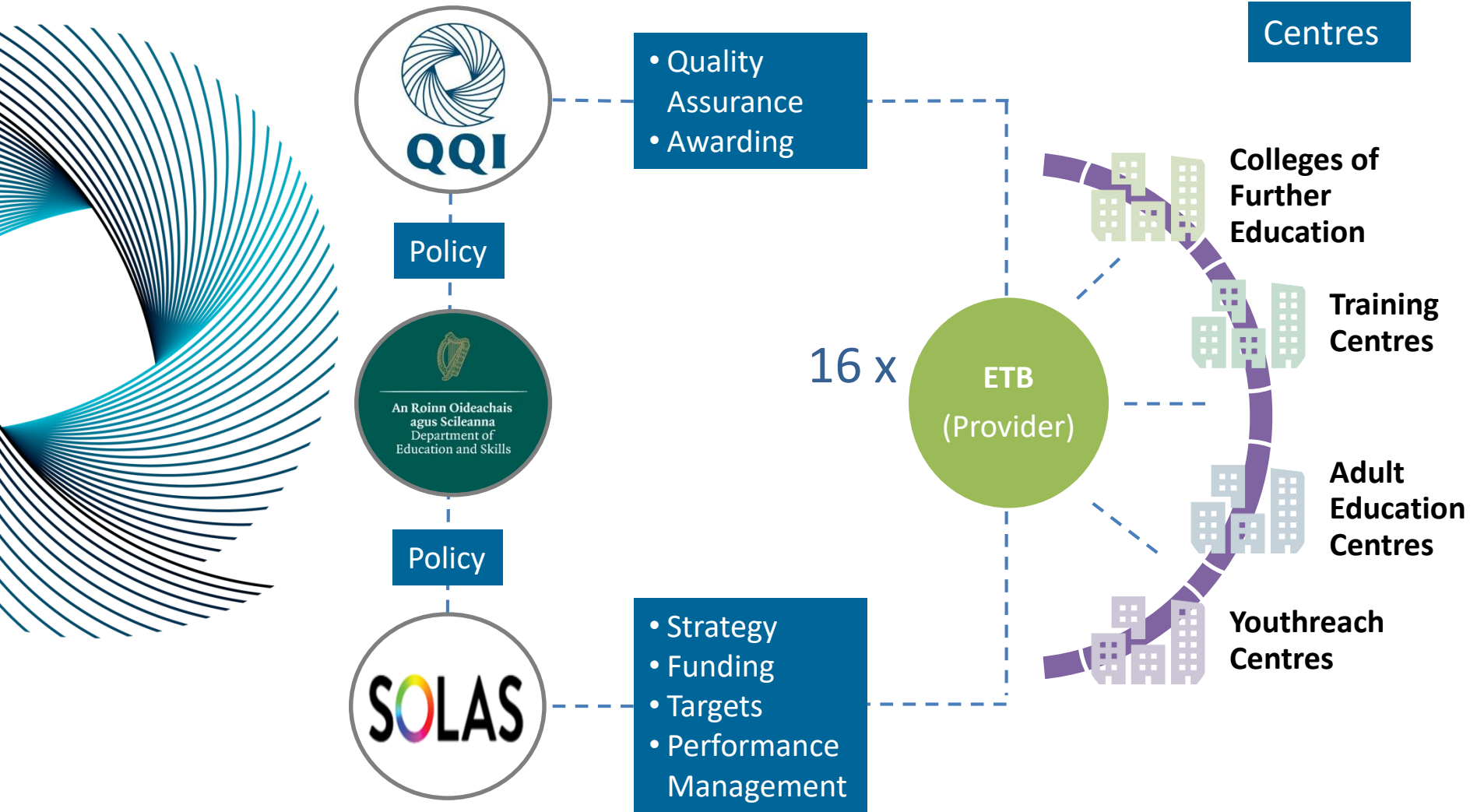




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# Public VET in Ireland



Centres

- Quality Assurance
- Awarding



Policy



Policy



- Strategy
- Funding
- Targets
- Performance Management

16 x



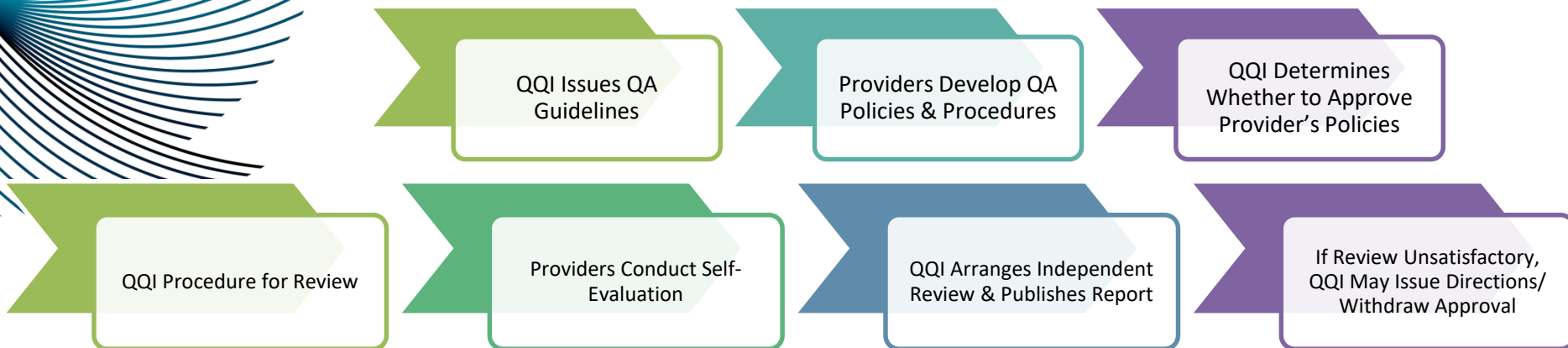
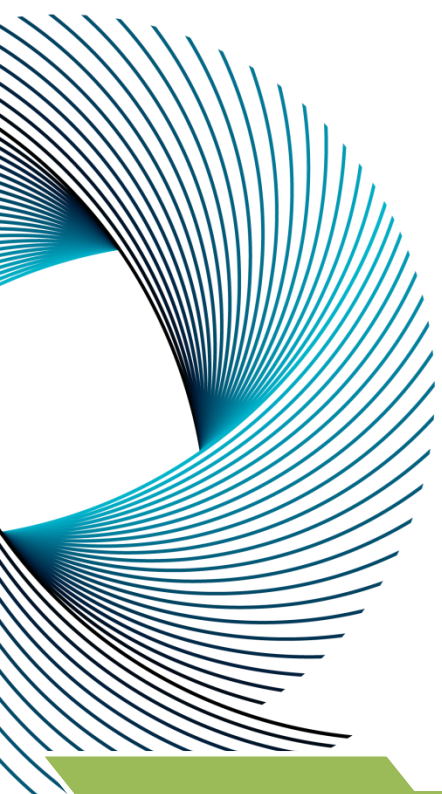
- Colleges of Further Education
- Training Centres
- Adult Education Centres
- Youthreach Centres



# Current Evaluation Practices

*“The Authority shall...*

- (a) issue guidelines ... for the **establishment** of procedures for quality assurance ..., and*
- (b) Establish procedures ... for review by the Authority of the **effectiveness of***
  - (i) the procedures for quality assurance established by providers, and*
  - (ii) the implementation of those procedures by relevant providers.”*

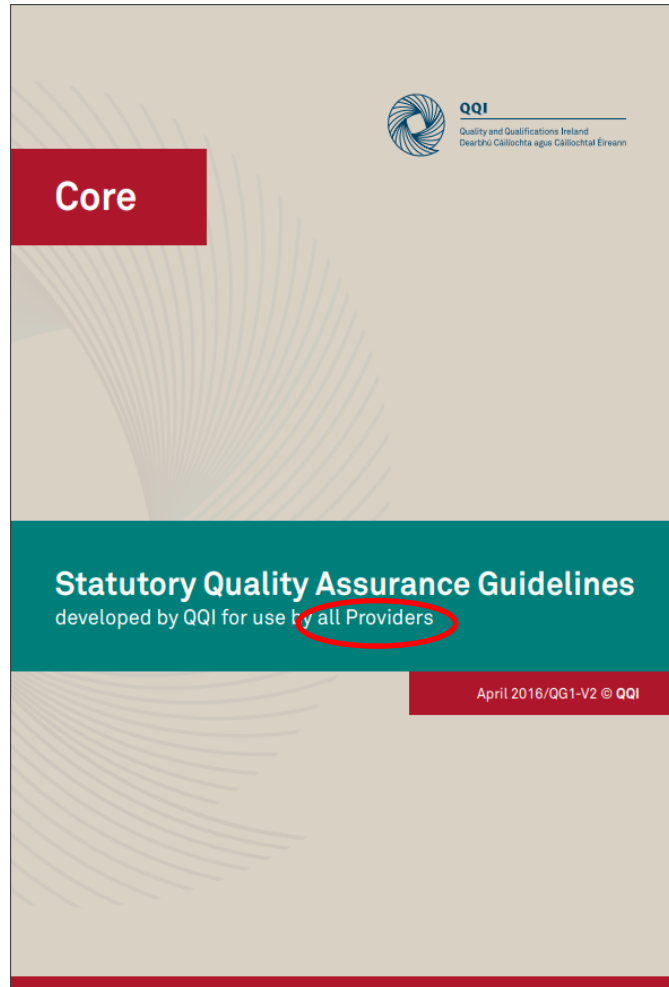




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# Current Evaluation Practices



## Core QAG for all Providers:

- Governance & Management of Quality
- Documented Approach to QA
- Programmes of Education & Training
- Staff Recruitment, Management & Development
- Teaching & Learning
- Assessment of Learners
- Supports for Learners
- Information & Data Management
- Public Information & Communication
- Other Parties
- Self-Evaluation, Monitoring & Review

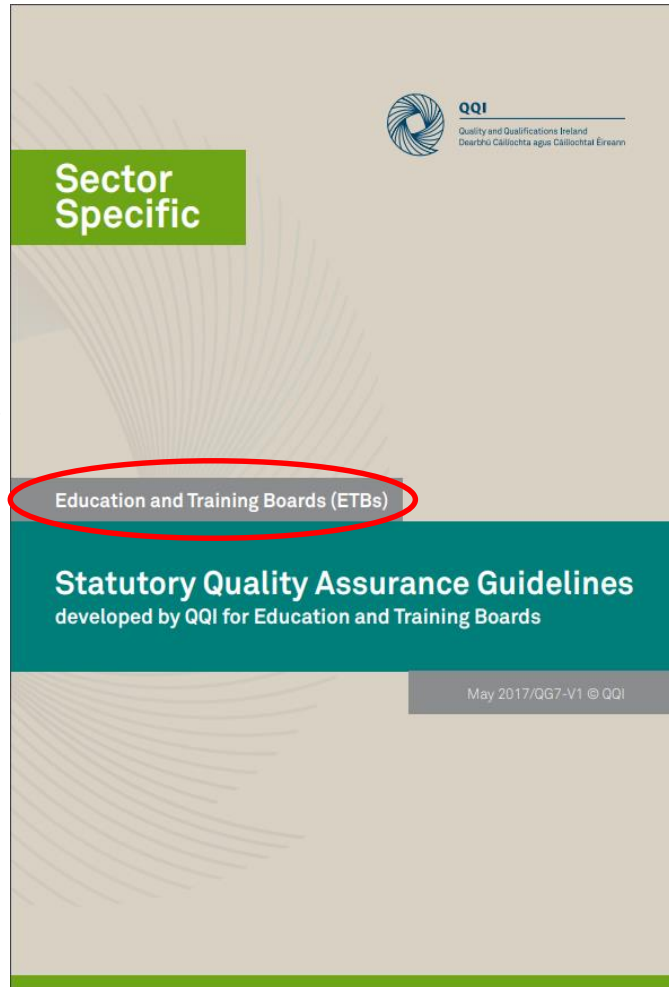
QQI Quality Assurance Guidelines are Available here: <https://www.qqi.ie/Articles/Pages/QA-Guidelines.aspx>



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# Current Evaluation Practices



## Sector-Specific QAG:

- ***In addition to*** Core QAG, specific guidelines reflecting aspects of structures and responsibilities specific to particular sectors.
- Eg. ETB QAG on 'Governance & Management of Quality' address balance of centre-level decision making and provider-level oversight.
- Sector-specific QAG produced for:
  - ETBs
  - Independent/Private Providers
  - Designated Awarding Bodies
  - Institutes of Technology



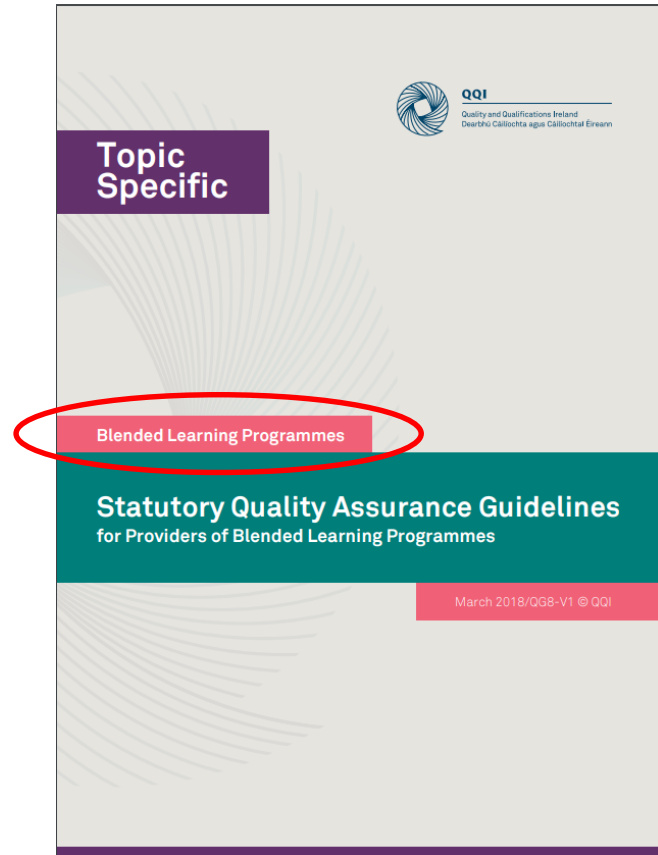
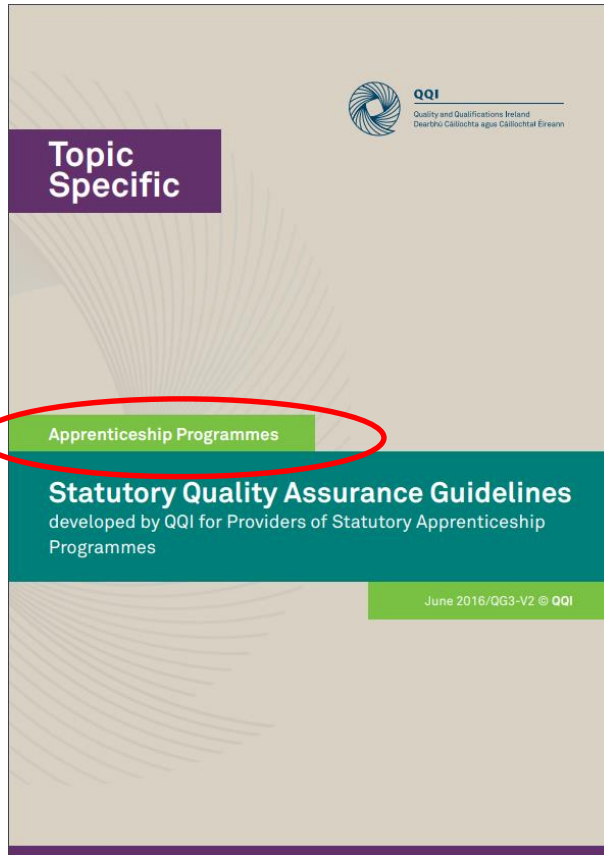


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# Current Evaluation Practices

Further **Topic-Specific** Guidelines should be referred to where appropriate, depending on a provider's range and type of provision.



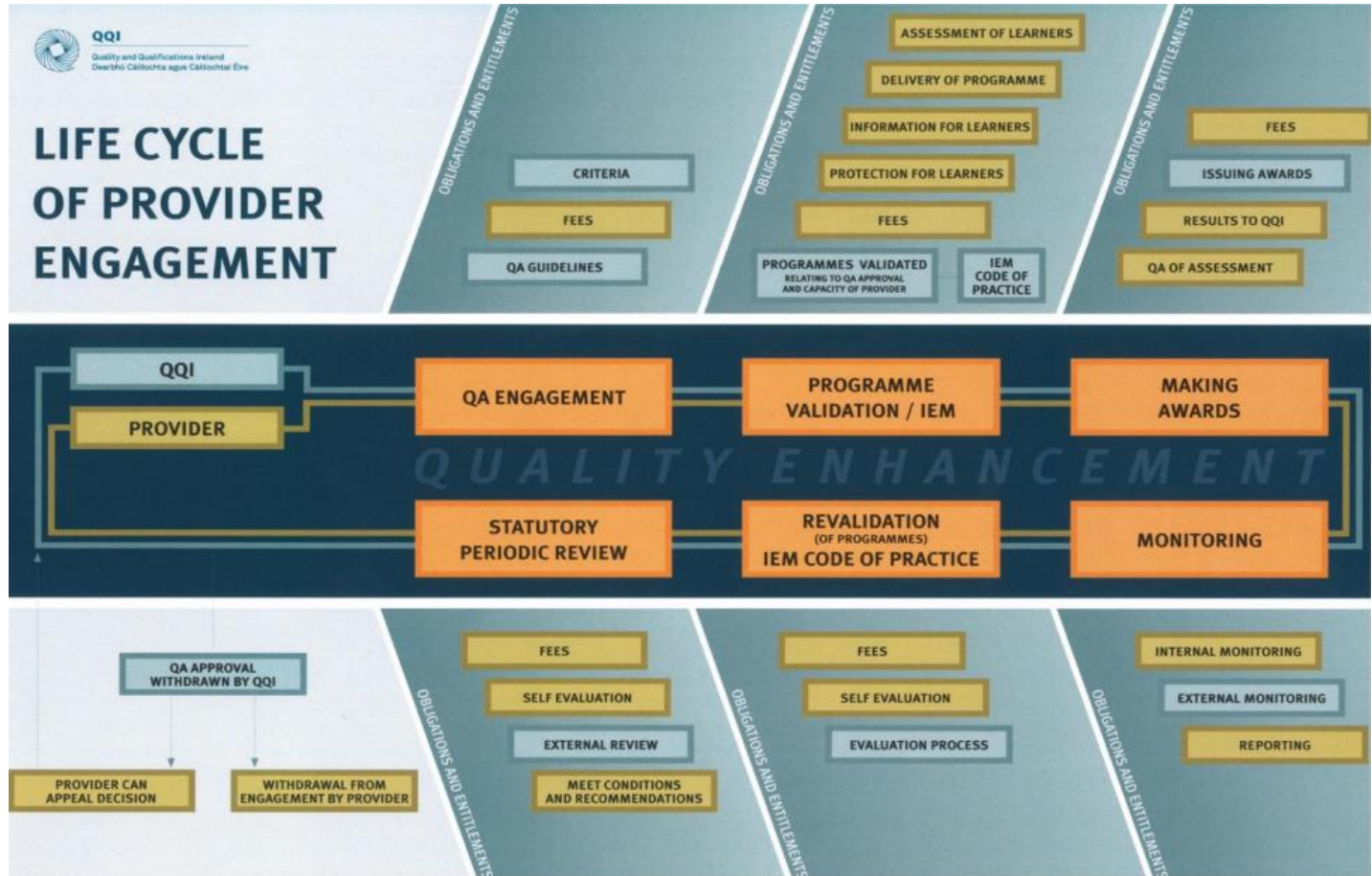
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# Current Evaluation Practices





# Current Evaluation Practices

## Engagement:

- Applicant completes application and Gap Analysis against QQI QAG.
- Independent Panel (1 x Head of Comparable Provider; 1 x VET QA experience; 1 x Teaching, Learning & Assessment; 1 x Sector/Industry Rep.; 1 x Report Writer).
- Evaluates against QAG as appropriate for provider context:
  - Good governance – including sufficient externality;
  - Separation of commercial and academic decision-making;
  - Adequate resources – human, financial, physical;
  - Methodology to obtain stakeholder views/benchmark – continuous improvement.
- Presentation by Applicant; Site visit if required by Panel; Report to QQI.

Successful

QA Approved

Unsuccessful

Recommendations

Unsuccessful

QA Not Approved

Outcomes



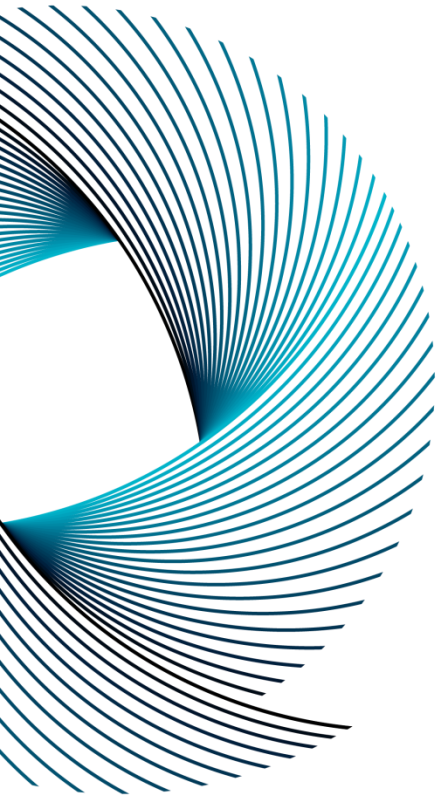
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# Periodic Review of Provider QA

## Purpose:

- Encourage a QA culture & enhancement of the student learning environment & experience.
- Provide feedback to institutions about institution-wide quality and overall effectiveness of QA.
- Contribute to public confidence in quality of institutions by promoting transparency and public awareness.
- Facilitate quality enhancement by using evidence-based, objective methods and advice.
- Support systems-level enhancement of quality (e.g. through publication of synoptic reports).



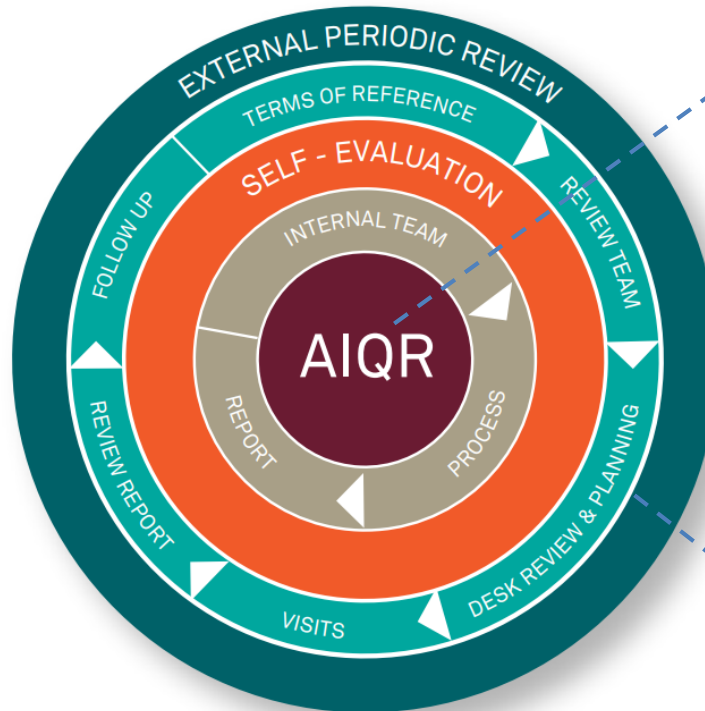


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# Periodic Review of Provider QA

## QQI Higher Education Periodic Review Process



### Annual Institutional Quality Report (each academic yr)

- Includes baseline info. on QA policies, governance etc.; enhancement activities in reporting period; and plans for next year.

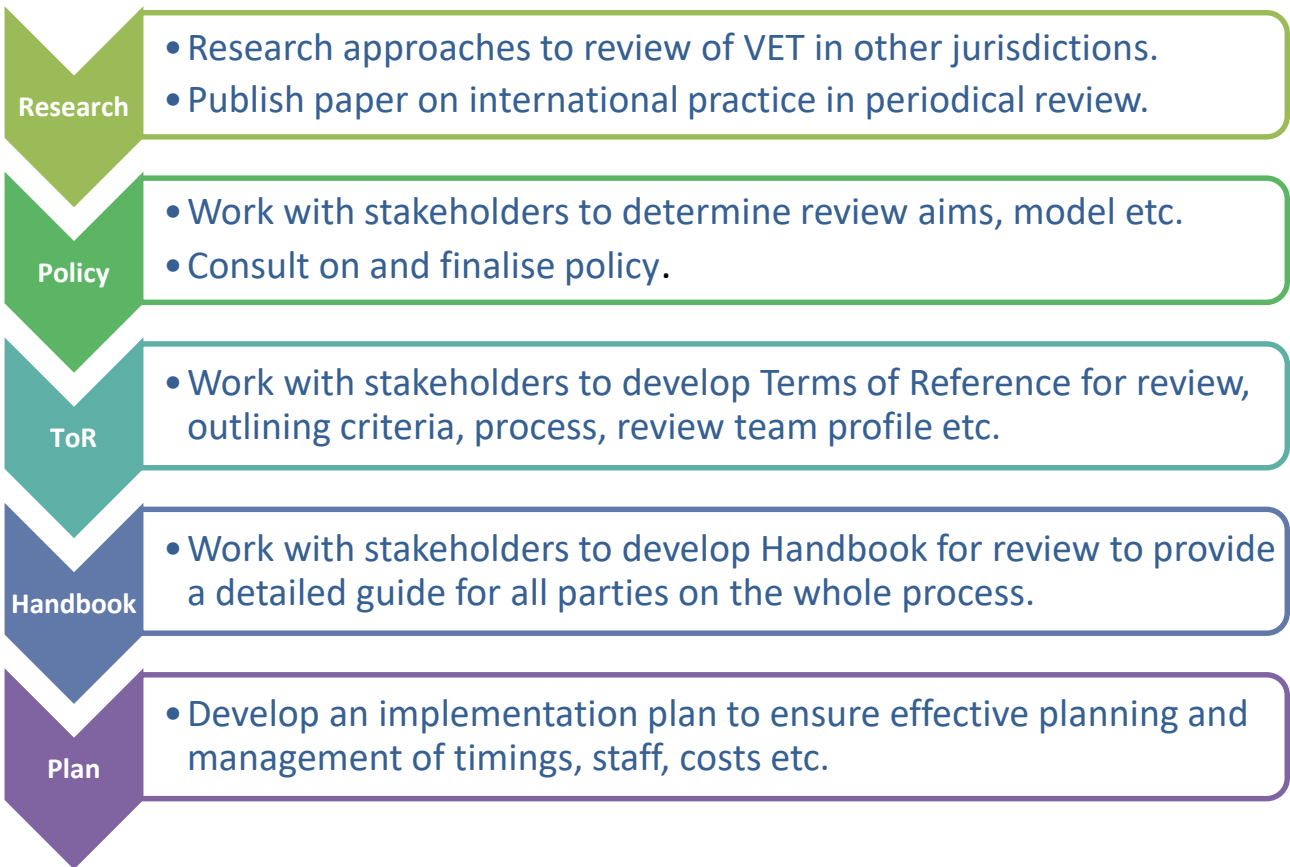
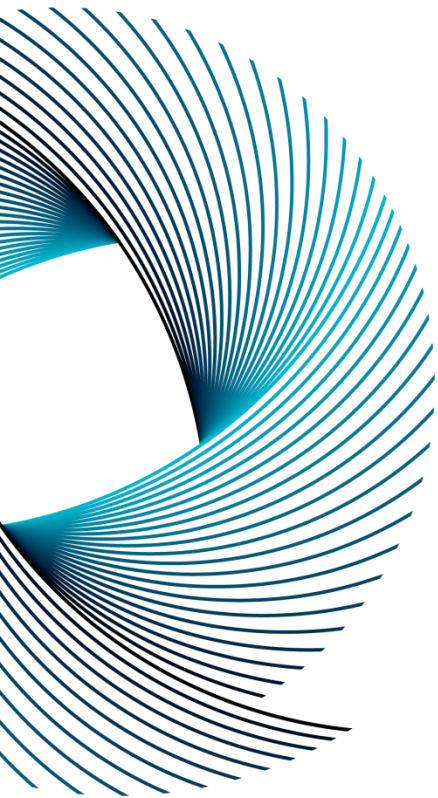
### External review (7 yrs max.)

- Terms of Reference
- Criteria: ESG, QQI QAG & institution's own QA goals
- Self-evaluation – informs dialogue with review team.
- External assessment and site visit by review panel.
- Publication of report.
- Follow-up on actions taken.



# Periodic Review of Provider QA

QQI planning process for periodic review of public VET providers':  
2019-2020



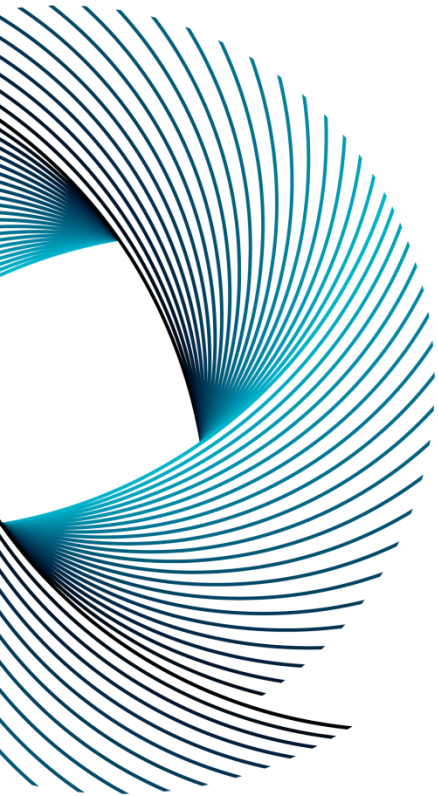


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# Periodic Review of Provider QA

Key Questions for Review Model in Irish Public VET sector:



Criteria (QAG, EQAVET, ESG)

Accountability v Enhancement

How to Evaluate Diverse Provision (L1-6)

QQI as Awarding Body

QA Indicators v Performance Management

How to Evaluate Multi-Layered Provision  
(Provider/Centre)

Individual Provider Responsibility v System-Level Issues



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# Thank You!

## Any Questions?



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[www.qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie)