



BORD OIDEACHAIS
AGUS OILIÚNA CHIARRAÍ

KERRY EDUCATION
AND TRAINING BOARD

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QUALITY COUNCIL

Annual Report 2021



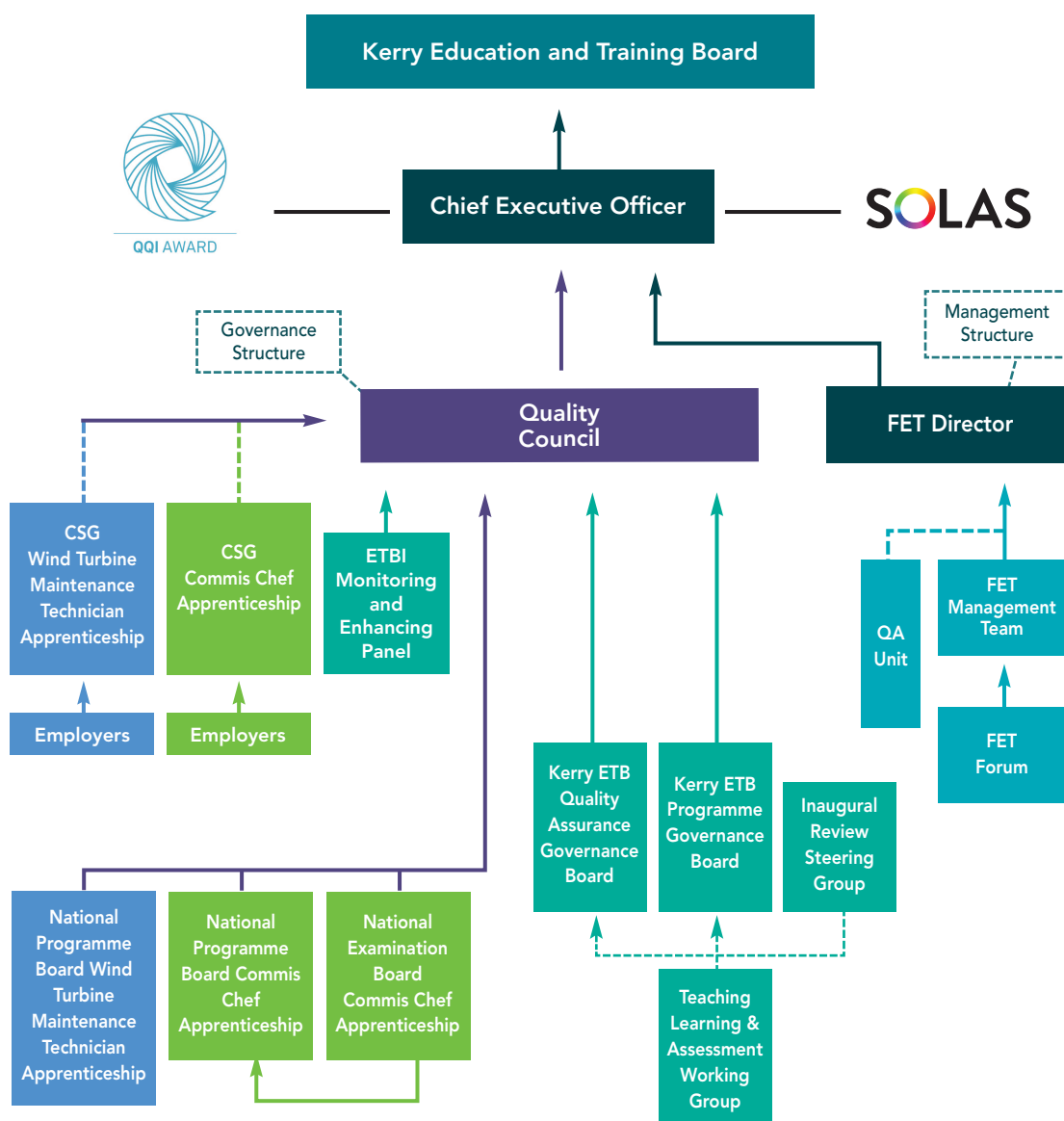


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The purpose of the Kerry ETB quality assurance governance structure is to ensure that teaching, learning and assessment in Further Education and Training (FET) is quality assured.

The Quality Council is the overarching governance unit in the Kerry ETB quality assurance governance structure. Its primary role is to ensure that all learners receive an equivalent experience in Kerry ETB by protecting, maintaining and developing the standards of education and training programmes and related activities in Kerry ETB. The Quality Council is chaired by an external Chairperson, Mr Brendan Tuohy and has a membership that includes the FET Director and management, staff representation, external partners and learner representation.



The Kerry ETB Quality Council held six meetings in 2021 (all of which were hosted online), as follows:

- 12 February 2021
- 8 April 2021
- 9 June 2021
- 6 July 2021
- 19 October 2021
- 8 December 2021

Kerry ETB Inaugural Review of Quality Assurance

In early 2021, the Quality Council considered the processes to develop the Kerry ETB Self-Evaluation Report, in particular the plan for the consultation process, the Kerry ETB Provider Profile and preparations for the review visit. At each meeting, the Council received updates from the QA Unit on progress.

In May 2021, the Quality Council and its governance sub-structures engaged in a process to review its FET QA governance systems. It noted the integration by the ETB of good practice and strengths into its FET QA governance system, in particular the manner in which it incorporated external membership, and specifically how it had appointed an external Chair to the FET Quality Council. It also noted the adoption of several commendation practices. This review formed part of the Kerry ETB Self-Evaluation Report.

On 9 June 2021, the Council recommended to the CEO, for approval, the Kerry ETB Provider Profile and then on the 6 July 2021, the Council recommended the same for the Kerry ETB Self Evaluation Report.

In the Kerry ETB Self-Evaluation Report, it noted the emergence of key areas of improvement focusing on procedures and monitoring; development of further policies and procedures to enhance the quality of teaching and learning; using data and information, such as that provided by PLSS and the integration of FET Quality Assurance with organisational strategic planning. It also noted the significant undertaking for Kerry ETB in managing and leading the self-evaluation process and the meaningful collaboration required from a wide number of important stakeholders.

It noted initial feedback at the December meeting.

Results Ratification

The role of the Quality Council is to ratify results from across Kerry ETB FET centres prior to their submission to the awarding body. Figure 1 illustrates the results ratified by major and minor awards across 2021. In total, the Quality Council ratified 1,410 individual minor awards and 998 major awards.

Figure 2 illustrates the breakdown of major awards ratified and Figure 3 illustrates the breakdown of minor awards ratified. Please note that, in Figures 2 and 3, FET Centres refers to results ratified for the Adult Literacy and Basic Education Centres, Further Education and Training Centres and BTEI Outreach Programme.

Results Ratified

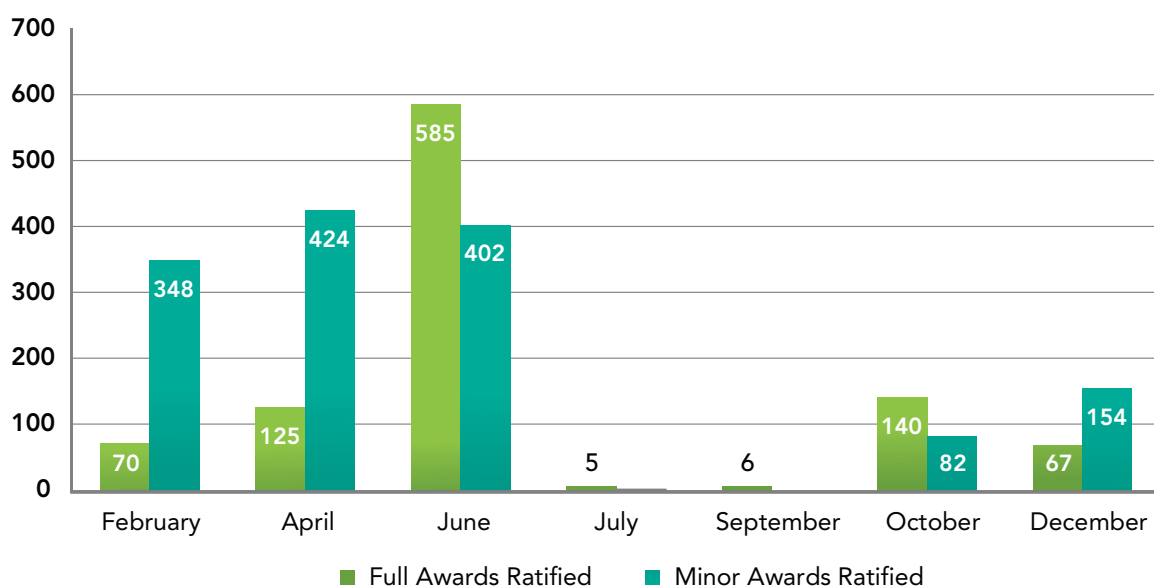


Figure 1 | Results Ratified by Minor and Major Award

Authentication and Results Approval Reports

The Quality Council considered the collated external authentication reports and the results approval reports arising from all certification periods. Quality enhancement activities and best practices were noted. Results Approval Report (RAP) reports were given separate consideration and, in particular, the Quality Council focussed on the:

- Continuous improvement of the External Authentication process;
- Importance of providing practitioners with feedback on EA Reports;
- The value of transparency and a culture of openness; and
- The important role that training provides in fostering continuous improvement.

Quality Improvement Plan 2017-2022

The Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) 2017-2022 sets out Kerry ETB's plan for enhancing and improving quality in further education and training. The Council provided oversight of the QIP, receiving reports from the QA Unit of progress made under each of the Plan headings:

- Governance and Management of Quality
- Delivery of FET
- Learner Experience
- Information and Data Management
- Other Parties Involved in Education and Training

In particular, it noted the enhancement activities and implementation of key actions to ensure consistency of experience for learners, e.g. the enhanced integration of the learner's voice through consultation and surveys.

Major Awards Results Ratified

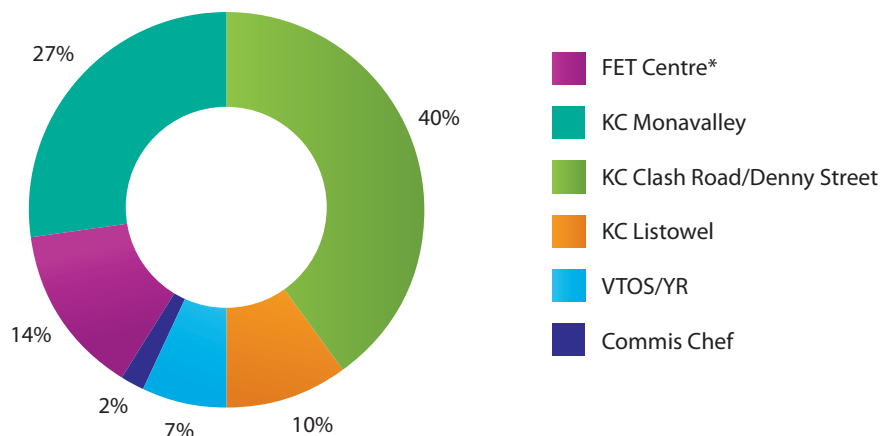


Figure 2 | Major Awards Results Ratified by Kerry ETB Quality Council in 2021 by Campus/Programme

Minor Awards Results Ratified

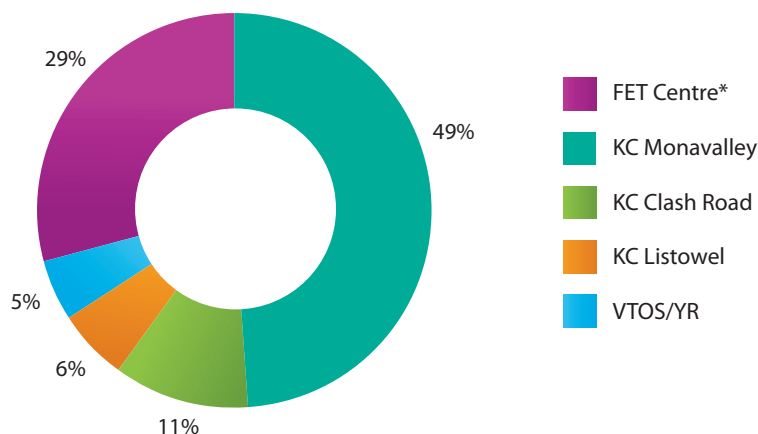


Figure 3 | Minor Awards Results Ratified by Kerry ETB Quality Council in 2021 by Campus/Programme

*FET Centres refers to results ratified for the Adult Literacy and Basic Education Centres, Further Education and Training Centres and BTEI Outreach Programme.

Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Common Awards System Modifications

In 2021, the Quality Council approved modifications of awards as part of Kerry ETB's measures to mitigate the impact of COVID 19. Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) permitted the temporary modification to 101 major awards at levels 4 and 5 and 6 awards in the Common Awards System (CAS). This allowed learners to meet the overall award outcomes by alternative means, where work experience had been a mandatory module. For the awards excluded from this arrangement, Work Practice Forms were prepared by Communities of Practice and recommended for approval by the Quality Council in February 2021. Additional Work Practice forms were approved by the Quality Council in December 2021, in order to mitigate the impact of COVID 19.

Quality Council role in Respect of Apprenticeships

The Quality Council fulfils the role of Quality Council in respect of Apprenticeship and has overall responsibility for new apprenticeship programmes. In this regard, it has overseen the planning, co-ordination, quality, development and enhancement. It reserved a part of every meeting to consider reports from the Consortium Steering Groups established by the Quality Council and proposals from the National Apprenticeship Programme Boards. Reports from the Commis Chef Apprenticeship were carefully considered and results ratified. It also noted new intakes in other ETB providers and approved the application of Tipperary ETB to become a new provider. At its December meeting, it was noted that the Commis Chef programme would be submitted for revalidation in early 2022. A key role was receiving reports in respect of this new process.

The Quality Council noted the progress of the submission of the new Wind Turbine Technician Apprenticeship Programme to QQI for validation. At the December meeting, it was noted that Kerry ETB was shortlisted for Excellence in Training and Development award at the Irish Wind Industry Awards 2021.

Learner Voice Representation

At the April 2021 meeting, Angela Cremins, a learner in VTOS Killarney Centre, spoke to the Quality Council about her experience as a learner.

Sub-Governance Reports: QA Governance Board and Programme Governance Board

The Council also considered reports from bodies in its sub-Governance structures. In this regard, the QA Governance Board reported on Personal and Professional Development Briefing Sessions for teaching staff and QA Briefing sessions. The Council also supported the establishment of a QA Working Group as a sub-group of the QA Governance Board.

It also noted and commended the work of the Teaching, Learning and Assessment Working Group, which focused on sharing best practices inviting guest speakers to address the group and supporting the work of the Communities of Practice. The Council also received reports on the FET Continuing Professional Development (CPD) provision and on Technology-Enhanced Learning (TEL) training for staff.

New Programme and Course Approved

Nationally, the ETB sector developed a Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care and Kerry ETB sought approval from the Quality Council to submit the programme for validation, which was approved in May 2021.

The Quality Council was notified of amendments to existing courses and programmes and the development of new programmes by the Programme Governance Board at the October and December meetings. In total 17 courses were brought to the Quality Council in this regard.

CONCLUSION

Despite the challenges posed by Covid-19, the Quality Council had a very successful year in 2021, holding six meetings (all online) and supporting the Kerry ETB Inaugural Review of Quality Assurance by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI). As this was the first external review, it was very resource consuming but the process was very positive overall and there were significant benefits from participating in it.

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Kerry Education and Training Board