

Awards Plan: Update August 2011

1. Context

The Awards Plan is a management and communications tool which provides for and schedules (i) the migration of existing award standards and (ii) the development of new award areas to the Common Awards System (CAS).

2. Progress

The aim of migration project is to migrate existing awards into the Common Award system. In the process some awards will be harmonised, others will be deactivated. At the beginning of the project in Summer 2008 there were 304 Major awards, 160 Special purpose awards and 5 Supplemental awards to be migrated. These figures have been refined recently and **Appendix 1** outlines the targets, actual completion rates to date and timelines for migration .

Further detail is available by level and also by field of learning. The range of activity by level is outlined in **Appendix 2** and by field of learning in **Appendix 3**.

New award development is also taking place, details of current and planned activity are outlined in **Appendix 4**.

FETAC is committed to completing the migration project on schedule. Partnership with the former awarding bodies and others such as the IVEA and Skillnets is key. The executive will continue to review and refine the process to improve effectiveness and efficiencies.

Appendix 1

Breakdown by Award Type	Total Project Target ¹	Actual ²	% ³	Actual 2009	Actual 2010	Actual 2011 to date	December 2011
Major							
FÁILTE	34	34	100.0%	27	4	3	
FÁS	81 ⁴	60	74.0%	6	25	29	21
NCEA	1	1	100.0%			1	
NCVA	136	96	70.6%	4	78	14	40
TEAGASC	20	11	55.0%	1	2	8	9
SubTotal	272	202	74.2%	38	109	55	70
Special Purpose							
FÁILTE	34	30	88.2%	24	6		4
FÁS	92	72	78.2%	1	34	37	20
TEAGASC	34	26	76.5%	12	13	1	8
SubTotal	160	128	80.0%	37	53	38	32
Supplemental							
FÁS	5	2	40.0%	0	2		3
SubTotal	5	2	40.0%	0	2		3
Total	437	332	75.9%	75	164	93	105⁵

Breakdown by Level	Total Project Target ¹	Actual ²	% ³	Actual 2009	Actual 2010	Actual 2011 to date	December 2011
Level 3	9	9	100.0%	7	2		
Level 4	43	36	83.7%	5	18	13	7
Level 5	208	161	77.4%	14	98	49	47
Level 6	177 ⁴	126	71.1%	49	46	31	51
Total	437	332	75.9%	75	164	93	105⁵

¹ The migration project commenced in June 2008 and is due to be completed by December 2011

² Actual cumulative awards completed to August 2011 (including number rationalised and deactivated)

³ % of the target completed to August 2011

⁴ The Advanced Certificate – Craft awards (31) have been removed from the major award total pending the Dept. of Education and Skills review of apprenticeship

⁵ 16 awards are not currently being certified hence will be deactivated at end of 2011. Approximately 20 awards are currently in the process of being harmonized

Appendix 2: Progress by Level

Levels 3 to 6: Managing the transition to the Common Awards System

- An update to the information note is available to assist existing providers to manage the change to the Common Awards System. A particular point to note is that **all existing level 3 awards will be deactivated after 5 December 2011 and no certification will be available on these awards after that date**. The next version of the information note will be published at the end of September after the next series of publications of CAS awards.

Level 4

- 1 new major award in Sports and Recreation has been presented to the June Standards Advisory Board (SAB). It will be published in Autumn 2011.
- Work continues on finalising the migration of awards at level 4 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2011.

Level 5

- Work continues on finalising the migration of awards at level 5 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2011. A meeting of the IVEA Standards Group is planned for October to agree the final Level 5 and Level 6 NCVA major awards being converted through the IVEA Standards Group process, these awards will be presented to the Standards Advisory Board in November. Publication of these awards will be spread between Spring 2012 and Autumn 2012.

Level 6

- Work continues on finalising the migration of awards at level 6 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2011. Publication of these awards will be spread between Autumn 2011, Spring 2012 and Autumn 2012
- Level 6 Business Awards will be published for consultation in September to ensure an inclusive consultation process with the sector.
- The Sports Standards Group is meeting in early September to review draft major awards at Level 6, these are likely to go for consultation in October.
- The Level 6 major award in Retail Management will go for public consultation in early September with a view to being presented to the November SAB.
- Major awards at level 6 in Horticulture and Golf and Sports Surfaces Management are being prepared for consultation in the Autumn.

Appendix 3: Progress by field of learning

Migration

Sport, Recreation and Coaching

- The Sports Standards Group will meet in September, (the planned July meeting was postponed), to review draft major awards at Level 6 and to agree the Level Certificate in Outdoor Recreation for public consultation. The Standards Group is on schedule to complete the migration of the remaining Level 5 and Level 6 awards for presentation to the Standards Advisory Board in November.

Hairdressing

- The Level 5 major award in hairdressing has gone to public consultation. Feedback from the consultation will be considered in September and the awards presented to the November SAB

Equitation

- The Equitation group has harmonised awards in equitation and presented them for public consultation. These include Level 4 Horsemanship, Level 5 Horsemanship, Level 6 Horsemanship and Level 6 Equine Breeding. Feedback from the consultation will be considered in late September and the awards presented to the November SAB.

Business Awards

- It was agreed to hold publication of the Level 6 Business Majors for consultation until September, these awards will be published for consultation in early September. Following completion of the consultation process, the Standards Group will meet to finalise the awards for the recommendation to the next Standards Advisory Board meeting.

Retail

- The Level 6 Retail Management award will be published for consultation in September and will be presented to the November SAB.

Horticulture

- The Horticulture Standards Development Group met on August 19 to review final drafts of level 6 Horticulture and Golf and Sports Surfaces Management. These awards will go for consultation in the Autumn.

New Award Development

Green/Renewable Technology Sector

- There has been some delay in assignment of an SME to undertake development of new minor awards, as proposed within the Sector Needs Analysis. It is planned however to assign an SME and to commence this development work before the end of September.

Body, Beauty and Therapy

- Draft award structures and mandatory components for new Level 5 and Level 6 major awards in Body and Beauty Therapy have been published for consultation. The consultation process is being extended to facilitate all providers in contributing in full to the consultation process.

Music

- An SME has been assigned by the group to complete a Sector Needs Analysis, the SME is not available to commence this work until early/mid September.

Commercial Gas Safety

- A level 6 special purpose award in Commercial Gas Safety has been developed by a standards development group led by the Commission for Energy Regulation and will be submitted to the Standards Advisory Board in August 2011

Drama

- A Standards Development Group to develop a new Level 6 major award in Drama has been established by Artstrain with representation from other stakeholders in the sector. The group is due to meet in Autumn 2011 to progress this new development.

Business/Quality Systems and Standards

- A draft Sector Needs Analysis has now been complete. The SDG met on 17th August but did not finalise the Sector Needs Analysis or agree new awards for development. A meeting is to be held between FETAC, NSAI and the SME to discuss further on 25th August.

Life Coaching

- Draft award specifications have been reviewed and the Standards Development Group met in July to review feedback. It has been agreed that the award type is more appropriately suited to a Special Purpose award as there is insufficient volume within the proposed certificate structure for a major award. The group are finalising the draft award specifications for public consultation.

Citizens Information Board

- The Standards Development Group is meeting on 16th September to agree and finalise the draft award specifications for a Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Information, Advice and Advocacy for public consultation.

Appendix 4: Standards Development Groups

SDG	Lead Body	Awards	Status
Horticulture	Teagasc Pat Leonard [pat.leonard@teagasc.ie]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migration of 8 major awards and 1 special purpose award across levels 4, 5 and 6 	In development
Training & Development	Irish Institute of Training & Development Sinead Heneghan [sinead@iitd.com]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Certificate Training & Development Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate Train the Trainer 	On Hold
Life Coaching	Irish Coaching Network Kieran O'Connor [koconnor@icdn.ie]	Specific Purpose Certificate in Life Coaching Skills	In development
Information Advice & Advocacy	Citizens Information Board Geraldine Cullen [geraldine.cullen@ciboard.ie]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Certificate in Information Advice and Advocacy 	In development
Gas Installation	Commission for Energy Regulation Karen Trant [ktrant@cer.ie]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Gas Installation Non Domestic 	Presented to August SAB
Body and Beauty Therapy	Dun Laoghaire VEC Deirdre Hanamy [dhanamy@scd.ie]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 5 Certificate in Body and Beauty Therapy Advanced Certificate in Body and Beauty Therapy 	Public consultation
Handling Animal Remedies	Irish Agriculture Supply Industry Standards (IASIS) (in partnership with Department of Agriculture) Ann Williams [ann@apha.ie]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Sale and Supply of Animal Remedies 	Presented to August SAB
Business Systems and Standards	National Standards Authority of Ireland Kieran Cox (Kieran.cox@nsai.ie)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 6 Special Purpose Certificate in Implementation of Business Systems Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Business Systems Auditing (draft titles) 	In development
Farm Expansion	Teagasc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Farm Expansion Planning 	Presented to SAB
Drama	Artstrain John Taite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 6 Certificate in Drama 	Commenced

SDG	Lead Body	Awards	Status
	john@nayd.ie		
Music	Consortium of Music Conservatories: Cork School of Music, DIT & Royal Irish Academy Geoffrey Spratt Geoffrey.Spratt@cit.ie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBA Scoping NFQ Levels 1 - 6 	Commenced