

Conclusion of the Quality Review Process by the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland.

In concluding the review process in February 2008, the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland considered it helpful to note the purpose of the review established in the terms of reference – that it was to be developmental in intent, and aimed to assist the Council in achieving its own quality enhancement goals and to further develop its own internal quality culture. The Authority considers that it is clear from self-evaluation report, the review panel's report and FETAC's response that the review process has succeeded in meeting its primary purpose.

The Authority concurred with the findings and supporting rationale in the report of the review team and supports the plans set out in the response of the Council.

In fulfilment of its statutory review function, the Authority is satisfied that

- the Further Education and Training Awards Council has performed all its principal statutory functions satisfactorily in a complex environment taking into account the objectives established by the Council for performing these functions;
- the Council's internal processes reflect best practice, are considered and are appropriate;
- in the performance of its relevant functions, the Council complies with the Common Quality Assurance Framework for European vocational education and training.

The Authority notes the need to attach priority to:

- Ensuring that FETAC has the capacity to deliver on its important and wide-ranging work – thus the need for the internal review of organisational and staffing arrangements was very important.
- The testing of a range of standard setting approaches (including setting new standards, and bringing together existing standards, where there is more than one or where there is only one) and then the speedy implementation of the agreed approach(es).
- The establishment of an industry forum.