

## 1.1 What is the purpose of these guidelines?

These guidelines set out additional, statutory, quality assurance guidelines specific to designated awarding bodies. These additional QA guidelines address the responsibilities of designated awarding bodies in their capacity as:

- Autonomous, independent, awarding bodies, setting standards and making their own state awards and awards for linked providers<sup>1</sup>;
- Designated awarding bodies operating in cooperation with QQI and the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), as defined within the 2012 Act;
- Designated awarding bodies with responsibilities for linked providers;
- “Relevant providers” as set out in the 2012 Act; and
- Experienced higher education institutions seeking to continuously improve and enhance their internal quality assurance system.