

4.3 Approaches to Development

QQI QA guidelines will be developed by building on the existing QA guidelines.³ QQI may also determine (and disseminate or promote) effective practice by adopting guidelines issued by other bodies.

Key to the development of QA guidelines is collaboration and consultation with the education and training community and stakeholders in the qualifications system.

3. The guidelines saved under Section 84 of the 2012 Act are considered "existing" for this purpose.

As part of this collaborative process QQI will:

- Develop QA guidelines that are in line with European and Irish policy on education and training, research and related activities
- Address any gaps that may arise out of the implementation of the national strategies for further and higher education and training.⁴ For example:
 - Clusters and strategic alliances in higher education
 - Innovations in provision that require different kinds of QA guidelines
 - Reviews of the existing guidelines and their implementation by QQI
- Adopt guidelines for its own purposes and for the education and training community as and when required.

In summary, the QQI approach to the development of QA guidelines is collaborative and evolutionary rather than revolutionary.

4.3a Modular Approach

QA guidelines may be issued separately to address specific sectors and they may also address specific topics, for example:

- Guidelines for different types of flexible provision, for example online provision
- Guidelines for voluntary higher, further and English language education and training providers seeking access to initial validation

QQI will issue common guidelines relevant to all sectors in education and training where appropriate.

4. *The “National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030” and the “Further Education Strategy 2014 – 2019”*