

3 GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Education and training boards are established under the Education and Training Boards Act 2013. Quality assurance procedures established will have regard to the statutory structures in the 2013 Act and any associated code(s) of governance (the Code of Governance of Education and Training Boards, the Codes of Governance for Public Sector Bodies); circulars issued by the Department of Education and Skills; the terms of funding and planning requirements under SOLAS, the requirements of the Comptroller and Auditor General; and the Teaching Council with respect to regulated staff and other relevant statutory obligations as public sector bodies.

The QA procedures for the governance and management of an ETB will operate at many levels of the organisation and throughout the different layers of the organisation. Given the distributed, diverse and evolving nature of ETBs, it is important that a multi-layered system be in place so that quality and its assurance is monitored in a consistent and appropriate way within and across the various constituent divisions or institutions of an ETB. These refer to the many schools, colleges, training centres and community-based adult education services, and contracted providers that are engaged in the delivery and assessment of education and training programmes. The quality assurance procedures established by ETBs should strike a balance between the corporate responsibility of an ETB and one which respects the significant roles and accountabilities of the various centres, divisions and institutions on the frontline of education and training provision.

The QA procedures for governance and management will:

- take account of the overall corporate responsibility of the ETB, vested in the Chief Executive and supported by the senior management of the ETB, in all aspects of the strategy, governance and management of quality assurance throughout the corporate entity. The corporate commitment to quality and the development of a quality culture is essential in this regard. This includes a resource base which is sufficient to ensure sustainability;
- clearly establish how the oversight of the quality assurance system is maintained with regard to specific responsibilities for quality assurance at a senior planning level, and across the educational and training institutions established and maintained by the ETB;
- clearly establish how the oversight of the quality assurance system is maintained and operated in tandem with the local decision-making of the various educational or training institutions established and maintained by an ETB;
- clearly establish how the roles and responsibilities for quality assurance and decision-making relate to educational and training activities and the quality roles and responsibilities within these activities;
- describe what role(s) and responsibilities exist for coordinating quality assurance activities and governance of teaching and learning both locally in the various educational or training institutions established and maintained by an ETB; and at the senior corporate level within an ETB. These should include collaborative quality assurance activities and cooperative developments with ETBI¹, with other ETBs and with other education and training bodies and stakeholders.

While taking on board the individual context of each ETB, quality assurance procedures established will have regard to ETB sectoral policies and frameworks established by ETBI to ensure commonality and consistency of approach across the sector.

¹ ETBI is the national representative association for Ireland's sixteen Education and Training Boards (ETBs) www.etbi.ie