

## 5.1 ETBs collaborating on a national basis

The ETB legislation refers to, and facilitates, formal, collaborative and/or shared development as set out in sections 21 to 23. Collaboration is recognised as a supportive and extremely beneficial opportunity that will strengthen all arrangements put in place for the sector. The ETBs have established formal collaborative structures through ETBI to develop the infrastructure and frameworks to meet the requirements of a comprehensive quality assurance system for the sector.

The quality assurance procedures for an ETB provides for the establishment of formal procedures for:

- The collaborative development of shared or cooperative arrangements, as they impact on many matters which are core to any provider-owned quality assurance system. For example:
  - Management Information Systems
  - proposals for new awards standards
  - proposals for new types of programmes
  - leadership performance and professional development
  - consistency of achieved standards for the same QQI awards across ETBs through, for example, assessment strategies and instruments/external authentication/appeals
  - peer review and benchmarking
  - shared curriculum development and review
  - learner and certification records to be shared among ETBs
  - centres and ETBs will still have to self-evaluate / self-monitor at national level
- Procedures to inform the operating arrangements and outcomes of any such collaborative or cooperative arrangements and how they will be managed within and across the ETBs in the context of supporting quality assurance systems.