

3 GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Where a provider's scale is such that it cannot support internal committees, alternative arrangements are put in place to ensure objective oversight, such as the use of external experienced expertise. Voluntary providers will ensure that academic decision-making (matters relating to education and training) is independent of commercial considerations or the undue influence of business owners.

The quality assurance procedures of voluntary providers must be supported by fit-for-purpose governance, management and decision-making structures. A voluntary provider must have QA procedures to:

- Maintain its status as an established legal entity, which is a clearly identified legal person, having rights and responsibilities under law
- Support and manage a resource base sufficient to sustainably support the quality assurance system and programmes of education and training, research and related services offered
- Manage risk
- Ensure it is stable and in good financial standing, with a reasonable business case for sustainable provision
- Demonstrate how it complies with applicable regulations and legislation in all jurisdictions in which it operates; its general good standing in the qualifications systems and education and training systems in any jurisdictions in which it operates (or in which its parents or subsidiaries operate) or enrolls learners, or in which it has arrangements with awarding bodies, quality assurance agencies, qualifications authorities, ministries of education and training, professional bodies and regulators
- Identify dependencies, collaborations, obligations, parent organisations, and subsidiaries and other stakeholder obligations that impact upon the capacity of the provider in any way
- Provide required information to QQI
- Ensure that where its capacity is in any way reduced (for example reductions in staff, resources, other education and training aspects; capacity to uphold the conditions and standards of validation or any other significant matters) QQI will be notified

Further detail on some of the main areas which should be addressed in quality assurance documentation is set out at Appendix A – additional areas may apply to different providers. The process by which a provider gets a programme accredited by QQI for the first time is

set out in the QQI Policy and Criteria for Provider Access to Initial Validation of Programmes Leading to QQI Awards.