



# ICHAS

## Section 12 – Self Evaluation, Monitoring & Review

<b>Subject:</b>	Policy on Provider owned QA engagement with External QA		
Applicable Standard	QQI	Core	
<i>Date Approved by Board of Directors:</i>			<b>February 2021</b>
Policy Version	1/2019	Date due for Revision	February 2024

### CONTEXT

A condition of offering a QQI validated programme is that the College engages in structured Programmatic Review and Validation processes as well as Cyclical Reviews of its programmes, services and structures. ICHAS values the quality and standards promoted by QQI in terms of its approach to Programme validation, review and revalidation and is proud to have successfully completed a cycle of Institutional Review with QQI's predecessor – HETAC in 2012.

It is equally committed to the process of re-engagement with QQI and ongoing engagement through AQR processes with QQI and cyclical reviews thereafter.

### POLICY STATEMENT

The College commits to collegial peer review and engagement with External Quality Assurance processes. It welcomes the opportunities provided by formal Self Evaluation followed by External review and the benchmarking of the College's procedures against best national and international practice within the culture of being itself a Learning Organisation and commits to engage positively and proactively with any action plans that emanate from Cyclical Reviews or other forms of external monitoring.

### DEFINITIONS

**Cyclical review** is an element of the broader quality frameworks for higher education. It provides a model whereby a College self-reflects on its activities and their effectiveness, in particular looking at the effectiveness of its quality assurance policies and procedures (QQI, 2016).

### Annual Quality Report (AQR)

The **Annual Quality Report AQR** forms part of Quality and Qualifications Ireland's (QQI) quality assurance (QA) framework of engagement with Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The AQR

provides documentary evidence of the development and evolution of each institution’s internal quality system. It provides QQI with assurance that internal QA procedures have been established and are being implemented consistent with regulatory requirements.

Each AQR is **published in full on QQI’s website**, providing transparency on the HEIs’ assurance and enhancement of quality to external stakeholders. (As such, institutions should ensure that their submissions do not contain any data that they consider to be commercially sensitive.) Collectively, the AQRs comprise a single national repository of quality assurance practice in Irish higher education institutions.

**RELEVANT GUIDELINES/ POLICIES INFORMING THIS POLICY**

- Policy for Cyclical Review of Higher Education Institutions (QQI, 2016)
- Statutory QA Guidelines developed by QQI for use by all Providers Guidelines (QQI, 2016)
- Sector Specific Quality Assurance (QA) Guidelines: Statutory QA Guidelines developed by QQI for Independent/Private Providers coming to QQI on a Voluntary Basis (QQI, 2016).

**Linked Policies and Procedures**

<b>Linked Policies</b>	Policy on Provider owned internal monitoring Policy on Programme Review and Revalidation
<b>Linked Procedures</b>	Procedures associated with Programme Review and Revalidation Procedures associated with Provider owned internal monitoring Procedures associated with Provider owned QA engagement with External QA



