

MFHEA COMMUNICATION

MFHEA/09/2024

Title: Updates on the Accreditation Procedure

From: Head Accreditation, Validation and Quality Assurance, MFHEA

Date: 05/01/2024

Dear Valued Licensed Providers,

I hope this communication finds you in good health. As we step into a new year, we are excited to share significant updates to our accreditation procedures, effective Monday, 8th January. These changes have been thoughtfully developed in alignment with our Quality Assurance (QA) Development Plan (2023-2025), which was presented to the ENQA review panel last October.

At the core of our approach is the belief in fostering transparency, **trust** and collaboration throughout the accreditation process. As such, we would like to inform you of the following changes:

1. Introduction of Evaluators:

- Providers will now be promptly informed about the evaluators assigned to their programs.
- A brief bio of each evaluator will be shared, highlighting their qualifications, current role, and experience in the field.
- **Approval for Higher Education (HE) Programs:** Evaluators will undergo approval by the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) to ensure the highest standards of assessment.
- **Objection Period:** Providers will have a 3-working-day window to submit objections in writing regarding the nomination of evaluators. The QAC will discuss all objections, and the committee's decision will be final.
- **Evaluator Contract:** To ensure clarity and compliance, evaluators will be informed of this new procedure when contacted for program evaluation, and the evaluator's contract will be amended. Evaluators who object to the disclosure of their names will not be engaged in the process.

2. Accreditation of Higher Education Programs:

- **Formal Notification:** Upon the appointment of evaluators, the appointed evaluator will be formally notified of their approval in writing.
- **Remote Panel Meetings:** The panel will meet remotely to discuss their **recommendations** and draft one consolidated report.
- **Digital Evaluators:** Recognising the evolving landscape of education delivery, digital evaluators will now be an integral part of the panel from the beginning for online/hybrid program evaluations.
- **Publication of Reports:** The reports generated by the panel will be published to enhance transparency. The specific format of these published reports is still under discussion and will be introduced later this year. **A Communication in this regard shall be issued accordingly.**

3. Digital Evaluators and RPL Policies:

- Starting from **March 1st**, two evaluators will be appointed for digital evaluators and RPL policies to work collaboratively.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding during this transitional period. These changes are designed to fortify the integrity and effectiveness of our accreditation processes. Should you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us.

Thank you,

Best regards,

Mr Lawrence Azzopardi
Head Accreditation, Validation and Quality Assurance