

MINUTES

IFATE APPROVALS AND POLICY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting title: IfATE Approvals and Policy Assurance Committee
Meeting date: 31 August 2022
Protective marking: Official

Board members present: Kate Barclay (Chair), Jessica Leigh Jones, Neil Morrison, Bev Robinson

IfATE officials present: Robert Nitsch (RN), Beth Chaudhary (BC), Carmel Grant (CG), Joanna Moonan, Chris Morgan (CM)

Other stakeholders present: None

Apologies: Malcolm Press

Item 1. Welcome, introductions and declarations of interest

1. All committee members recognised that should a potential or actual conflict arise by virtue of their other interests (outlined in the declaration of interests or otherwise) then it must be raised at the outset.
2. No new conflicts of interest were reported.

Item 2. Minutes and actions from the last meeting

3. The committee requested the minutes should be in a more concise form with more clarity about owners of actions and tracking of outcomes.

Item 3. Compliance Process Development

4. The committee received an update on the evolution of IfATE's internal governance and approvals and compliance processes.
5. The committee focused on independent decision making and advised that they anticipated greater independence in approvals decision making. The board also questioned the potential complexity of the internal governance arrangements. The Board recommended the use to KPIs to confirm the effectiveness of change initiatives.

Item 4. T Levels

6. The committee received an update on progress of the T Level programme, the publication of progression profiles and summer awarding.
7. The committee agreed that, in developing new T Levels, notably energy and sustainability, that IfATE does not undermine or overlap existing T Levels.

8. The committee asked that, in awarding contracts for the next generation of T Levels, any lessons learned from the first assessments were incorporated and that an alternative naming convention to 'Gen 2' was adopted. Resilience and diversity were discussed and IfATE was asked to re-think how sub-contracting and consortia might be encouraged in licencing applications.

Item 5. HTQs – a review of the progress with HTQ implementation

9. The committee noted the progress of the HTQ programme and the close support that IfATE has had to provide to applicants in Waves 1 and 2, which will prove unworkable for Level 2/3.
10. The committee considered the financial viability challenges associated with taking on small cohorts.

Item 6. Level 2 and 3

11. The committee noted the progress of the Post 16 (L2/3) programme. The committee discussed the capacity challenge and that work was on-going with the DfE to explore alternative delivery profiles.
12. The committee suggested that an alternative would be to stop the defunding of some L2/3 qualifications.

Item 7. Approvals Activity

13. The committee noted the on-going operating issues, including cost of living inflationary pressures, revised funding band calculations and civil service headcount reductions and its potential impact on EQA (delivery of future field work).
14. The committee were provided with updates on the response to T Level core health and science results and the Post Graduate Teaching Apprenticeship (PGTA). IfATE were asked to continue to press for a credible EPA for the PGTA.

Item 8. Any other business

15. The committee considered and approved a draft agenda for 13 October 2022 meeting, the theme being: Employer engagement – how effective is IfATE's engagement with employers?

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