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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

PMC Meeting 22.10.2019

Agenda Item 6 Update on Designation

1. The MA has formally delegated functions to 5 IBs [SOLAS; Department of Justice and Equality (DJE); HEA; Department of Employment and Social Protection (DEASP) and the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)] under the PEIL and there are Administrative Agreements signed between the MA and each of the IBs. When issuing its formal designation report, the IAB noted that it had concluded its review of the SOLAS and DJE revised IB Procedures Manuals and considered that these were adequate in respect of the Designation criteria.
2. The IAB has finalised its designation assessment of the Higher Education Authority (HEA). With the exception of one action point outlined below the IAB had no further observations.

Action point arises from the Designation Assessment (in respect of various Designation Criteria, including 3.12, 3.13 3.20).

- This relates to verifications checks and the sampling method for on-the spot verifications.
- The sampling method should be agreed with the MA and the HEA IBPM updated with specific details and procedures for same.
- This should be done before any Third Level Access claim is subject to verification checks by HEA IB.
- Please provide revised IBPM to the AA when this update is complete.
- This should be completed within 3 months.

However this action point did not affect the issue of a positive Designation opinion in respect of the HEA as an Intermediate Body

3. The IAB has also finalised its designation assessment of the DEASP. Again with the exception of one action point outlined below the IAB had no further observations.

Action point arises from the Designation Assessment (in respect of various Designation Criteria, including 3.12, 3.13 3.20).

- This relates to verifications checks and the sampling method for Ability.
- The sampling method for Ability should be agreed with the MA and the HEA IBPM updated with specific details and procedures for same.
- This should be done before any Ability claim is subject to verification checks by DEASP IB.
- Please provide revised IBPM to the AA when this update is complete.
- This should be completed within 3 months.

Again this action point did not affect the issue of a positive Designation opinion in respect of the DEASP as an Intermediate Body.

4. The IAB is currently actively engaged with the DRCD in reviewing the SICAP Procedures Manual and the related designation checklist.
5. As indicated at last June's meeting the AA has selected SOLAS and DJE for systems audits of the Management and Control Systems and was engaged in a public procurement process to engage external accountancy firms to undertake these audits.

In respect to the DJE the fieldwork has been completed by the Contractor and a draft report has been submitted to the AA. This report is being reviewed by the AA together with the Contractor's working papers. With regard to SOLAS the fieldwork is substantially complete and the draft report is awaited by the AA, again this report will be reviewed by the AA along with the Contractor's working papers. In both instances a contradictory procedure with the Intermediate Body to follow.

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