

Decision on the Substantive Change Report by Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)

Register Committee
23 March 2026

Ref. RC49/C161

Ver. 1.0

Date 2026-03-25

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Decision of:	2026-03-23
Result:	Take note
Report received on:	2026-03-09
Agency registered since:	2013-07-01
Last external review report:	2023-06
Registration until:	2028-06-30
Absented themselves from decision-making:	n/a
Attachments:	1. Substantive Change Report, 2026-03-09

1. The Register Committee considered the Substantive Change Report of 2026-03-09.
2. The Register Committee noted that QAA made substantive change in one of its existing activities and one activity has been discontinued.

Change in one of its activities/Introduction on new activity

3. The Register Committee learned that QAA has renamed its International Quality Review (IQR) to International Quality Accreditation (IQA). Besides renaming, the agency has slightly adjusted the timelines of the procedure and made greater clarification regarding the stages of the procedure, with increased focus on enhancement. The Committee further noted that the activity explicitly uses the standards from Part 1 of the ESG.
4. The Committee had no *prima facie* concerns that the activity is compliant with the ESG. The Committee, however, expects that this activity will be analysed in full as part of QAA next renewal of registration against Part II of the ESG (ESG 2.1 – 2.7).
5. Due to several ongoing procedures under the former name of the activity – International Quality Review (IQR), the activity shall remain active on DEQAR and the agency’s entry. Therefore, the International Quality Accreditation (IQA) shall be introduced on the agency’s entry as a new activity. However, QAA is expected to submit another change report once the remaining procedures are concluded with informing EQAR of official discontinuation of the activity.

Discontinuation of one of its activities

6. The Register Committee learned that the existing Elective Quality Review (EQR) has been also embedded into the newly rename activity International Quality Accreditation and as a result of that it has been discontinued as a standalone activity.
7. The Register Committee took note of the change and the activity will be archived from the agency's entry on DEQAR.

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EQAR Substantive Change Report

Agency #1	Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education
Agency acronym	QAA
Expiry date #1	30/06/2028
Contact #1	Laura Porter
Phone #1	
Email #1	l.porter@qaa.ac.uk
Other organisations?	No
A. Has the organisational identity of the registered agency changed?	No
B. Has the organisational structure changed?	No
C. Changes in EQA activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2. Substantive changes carried out to one or several existing external QA activities (e.g. changes to their methodology, criteria or procedures)• 3. One or several existing activities were discontinued
Description new/changed	<p>QAA has changed the name of an exiting review method.</p> <p>International Quality Review (IQR) has been renamed International Quality Accreditation (IQA). The review now has 4 stages rather than 5 with the 'Review' and 'Accreditation' stages being combined. Timelines have been slightly adjusted and greater clarification has been added with regards to the operation of the scoping stage, more detail provided on the preparatory meeting, an increased focus on enhancement and greater articulation of the steps taken in the case of unsuccessful outcomes.</p>

The existing Elective Quality Review (EQR) has also been embedded into the newly renamed IQA method.

As a result, EQR will be discontinued but the IQR method will remain active at this stage as reviews and mid-cycle reviews are still underway.

2. Changed EQA activity

1	International Quality Review
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2	Elective Quality Review
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ESG 2.1	IQA explicitly reviews a provider against the Standards outlined in Part 1 of the ESG and produces judgements on whether the provider satisfies the expectations for each Standard.
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ESG 2.2	Between April and June 2025, QAA engaged UK and international providers in a research initiative to understand perceptions of review activity. This stakeholder feedback prompted the change in the review method title as the term 'accreditation' was noted to be more readily understood by stakeholders, students, partners and governments when positioned externally. The change of name was identified as an opportunity to better meet provider's needs for recognition and reliability.
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ESG 2.3	
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1	https://www.qaa.ac.uk/international/accreditation/international-quality-accreditation
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ESG 2.4	Same as IQR and EQR
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ESG 2.5	Same as IQR and EQR
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ESG 2.6	
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1	Same as before
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3. Discontinued EQA activity

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Elective Quality Review

Context

The method has been embedded in the International Quality Accreditation (IQA) method

D. Activity outside the scope of the ESG

No

Submit form?

I am ready to submit the change report form
