

**Approvals Committee**  
(17 May 2005)

## **Department of Education & Policy**

### **Approvals Update**

#### **1. Introduction**

To date we have considered 32 programmes under the new approval process, many of which have now been approved as leading to registration with the Council. Clear trends have not yet emerged however there are a number of common issues which can be addressed in the Standards of Education and Training Guidance Document that is currently being drafted and which will be sent to all education providers.

It has become evident that there a variety of internal quality assurance processes exists across education providers. If an education provider has strong internal validation processes and robust programme documentation fewer conditions are likely to be set for the programme.

Table I details all the conditions that have been set to date. Conditions are regularly being set because:

- the programme team has not explicitly stated their policies or procedures in the documentation;
- internal validation panels may not consider the practice placements element of the programme and thus programme teams may not submit programme documentation relating to SET 5;
- the programme team does not fully explore the differences between full time and part time routes in the documentation; and,
- pre-registration master's programmes documentation does not explicitly state which modules are being taught at master's level and which are being taught at undergraduate level.

The above issues will be addressed in the guidance document currently being drafted.

#### **2. Decision**

The Committee is asked to note the contents of the paper. No decision is required.

#### **3. Background Information**

None

#### **4. Resource Implications**

None

#### **5. Financial Implications**

None

## **6. Background Papers**

None

## **7. Appendices**

Table I – Approvals visits and Conditions for academic programmes