

**Agenda Item 4**

**Enclosure 2**

**Paper ETC 86 / 02**

## **Education and Training Committee**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON  
12 NOVEMBER 2002 NOT APPEARING ELSEWHERE ON  
THE AGENDA**

**From the Secretary**

**for information**

## **Approved Provision Outside the UK**

1. The position with regard to the Order and its context is set out in the attached brief for the Council of Validating Universities.
2. A survey since the meeting on 12 November 2002 shows the following position :
  - no approved courses delivered wholly outside the UK, but
  - some small scale provision delivered outside the UK integrated with approved UK courses (eg. ERASMUS exchanges).
3. There is a caveat for the second category which is that no courses are currently sending students outside the UK for periods of time or components of courses which are essential for the approval of the course.

**Briefing from the Health Professions Council for CVU Workshop on Overseas Collaboration and Development on 18 October 2002**

Part III Section 12 (2)(a) of the Health Professions Order (HPO) states that,

" The Education and Training Committee shall determine procedures to –

assess whether a qualification awarded outside the United Kingdom is of a comparable standard to a qualification mentioned in paragraph (1)(a)\* and it shall, where it sees fit, keep a list of qualifications which are of a comparable standard which it shall publish and keep under review . . . "

DoH has clarified that this should be interpreted as follows,

" It is intended that the UK regulator should approve only UK courses, but these may include elements such as practice placements outside the UK as part of a course run by a UK academic institution approved by HPC. QA systems of approval should include these elements of courses. There should be consistency across approvals generally but the HPC will need to carefully consider cost implications. There must be no opportunity for an individual to be refused registration upon successful completion of an approved course because an element completed outside of the UK has not been approved. "

What this means is that the HPO has been drafted specifically with the intention in mind of developing collaborative arrangements to award UK qualifications for courses delivered wholly or in part outside the UK perhaps as a means of helping the wider strategy to redress shortages in the workforce.

The mechanism of using UK awards, which then fall under the jurisdiction of the HPO, is designed to avoid the anomalies around equity of treatment which would arise if HPC tried to approve non-UK awards.

The initiative for workforce planning and commissioning education (including collaborative provision) lies with Workforce Development Confederations in England, Health Professions Wales, and equivalents in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The initiative for developing and delivering courses and then assessment and awarding, lies with the various partner institutions in (further and) higher education.

The Health Professions Council's Education and Training Committee has asked that the DoH's intentions on using the HPO to promote collaborative provision be publicised widely in the HE sector. CVU members are asked to draw this to the attention of business managers and those who liaise with education commissioners.

\* UK qualifications arising from successful completion of courses delivered wholly in the UK.

The last point to note is that a UK award for provision delivered outside the UK can only be considered for approval and registration purposes at HPC on the same basis as UK awards for provision delivered wholly within the UK. This means that a graduate from such a course which has not been submitted to HPC and approved there is permanently debarred from registration. This is because there is no provision for assessing and registering individuals holding non-approved UK qualifications. There are two solutions to this. Either the course and qualification are formally submitted to HPC for approval, or the course leads also to the simultaneous award of a home state qualification whose holder can then be assessed on an individual basis.