

**Meeting between MFHE and the Quality Assurance Agency**  
**26 November 2024**

In attendance: Minister for Further and Higher Education  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Tom Yates, QAA  
Eve Alcock, QAA  
Zenny Saunders, Welsh Government (online)

Notes:

- The Minister discussed her priorities within her portfolio: improving tertiary participation rates, and having a broad and strong tertiary system in Wales.
- Tom Yates gave an outline of QAA's structure and activities:
  - International activities:
  - UK Quality code for higher education (new for 2024);
  - QAA as a founder member of the European Quality Assurance Register;
  - QAA as leaders in student engagements;
  - QAA's work in Wales: enhancement projects, facilitation of networks, thematic reviews and quality reviews
- The Minister emphasised that she is keen to see joint working between QAA and Estyn, and that she would like to hear more about collaboration and enhancement projects.
- Eve Alcock discussed QAA's role as regulator of the Access into HE diploma, adding that 1 million learners have gone through this programme. She also mentioned that QAA is now delivers quality assurance processes under contract for the Nursing and Midwifery Council.
- The Minister said that she would like to see more spotlight on schemes like Access to HE.
- The Minister mentioned the importance of franchising and quality.
- Eve Alcock discussed QAA's policy work on AI, including on assessment and utility for the workplace.

Actions:

- QAA to send further information on the Access to HE diploma and on tertiary collaboration to the Minister.