ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

Quality Enhancement

Annual Report Update 2025-2026

During 2026, the Quality Enhancement Office (QEO) continued to advance quality assurance and enhancement activities across the College, supporting compliance, accreditation, and continuous improvement initiatives.

Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
July 2026

Quality Assurance Review

The Quality Enhancement Office at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland is responsible for overseeing a robust and consistent approach to quality within RCPI and acts as an independent source of support for all quality activities. This includes internal and external activities across the College.

Quality Assurance Review

Following the completion of the Quality Assurance (QA) review of the Training Education and Lifelong Learning (TELL) function, a comprehensive QA Manual was developed, outlining the purpose, processes, and governance arrangements underpinning the function.

Building on this work, the next phase of the QA review programme will focus on Operations, encompassing four key areas: Professional Competence Scheme, Training and Delivery, Admissions, and Registry.

QQI Engagement

The QEO maintained significant engagement with Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) throughout 2026.

In January, RCPI successfully hosted a QQI panel review to consider a proposed change to the College's Scope of Provision. The review, which involved colleagues from across the organisation, took place in person at No. 6 Kildare Street on 13 January. The panel approved the change, subject to a small number of recommendations.

In March, an application was submitted for the TrustEd Ireland quality mark. TrustEd Ireland is a statutory quality mark introduced by QQI as part of a broader suite of legislative measures designed to protect international learners. The College is currently awaiting the outcome of this application.

The College is also undertaking the QQI CINNTE institutional review process. This reflective review includes a SER submission and in-person visit, and examines the effectiveness of RCPI's educational programmes and diploma offerings.

Irish Medical Council Engagement

The QEO continues to work closely with the Irish Medical Council (IMC) across a range of quality assurance, accreditation and Registration activities.

This includes the annual returns process through which our accredited training programmes provide both qualitative and quantitative information on programme delivery and outcomes updates on progress against conditions and recommendations, and support for the Postgraduate Training Bodies (PGTBs) in implementing new IMC accreditation standards and guidelines.

Specialist Division of the Register (SDR)

A review of the SDR process is currently underway. The review focuses on three key areas: the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Irish Medical Council, the policies and procedures governing the process, and the IMC Category F-Qualification listing. The objective of the review is to ensure that the process remains efficient, robust, and aligned with regulatory requirements.

Site Quality Improvement Visits

The review of the Site Quality Improvement (QI) process commenced in January 2026. A dedicated working group was established, comprising representatives from all six Training Bodies. Through its work, the group has identified a number of opportunities to strengthen the process and has developed recommendations for future enhancement.

Specialty standards and associated documentation have been reviewed and updated in collaboration with current and former National Specialty Directors (NSDs). In addition, trainee feedback forms have been revised to better capture the quality of training environments and learner experiences. A comprehensive "Lessons Learned" report is currently being finalised and is expected to be completed before the end of 2026.

New Training Posts

In the previous approval cycle, the College approved 46 training posts across 14 specialties. In addition to these initiatives, the QEO continues to support the wider College through accreditation activities, the development and review of policies and procedures, and the ongoing enhancement of the quality frameworks that underpin RCPI's educational and training activities.