

Memorandum of Understanding

between

**The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education
Gloucester, United Kingdom**

and

**The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills
London, United Kingdom**

This Memorandum of Understanding is made between the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, of Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1UB, United Kingdom, hereafter referred to as QAA

and

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills, of Alexandra House, 33 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6SE, hereafter referred to as Ofsted.

Recitals

Whereas:

QAA was established in 1997 and is responsible for safeguarding the public interest in sound standards of higher education qualifications and to inform and encourage continuous improvement in the management of the quality of higher education in the United Kingdom.

The remit of Ofsted was extended under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to create a new single inspectorate for children and adult learners in April 2007. Ofsted is responsible for the inspection and regulation of child care, education and skills for learners of all ages in England.

QAA and Ofsted

Have in common the objectives of assuring the academic standards of education and promoting the enhancement of the quality of learning provision. They are also signatories to the Higher Education Regulation Review Group's (HERRG) Concordat and are committed to achieving the Concordat's aims of proportionate and cost effective review activity.

QAA and Ofsted now wish to establish closer relations as equal partners for the purpose of creating cooperative and collaborative mechanisms for the mutual benefit of both parties and for the benefit of the educational communities that they work with.

Article I

Aims of Memorandum of Understanding

QAA and Ofsted agree hereby to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate for the benefit of learners in higher and further education. Both parties will work towards establishing a strategic alliance to enhance the practices and procedures of both organisations and to share information and experience. QAA and Ofsted will work in partnership to rationalise the requirements of review activities on the providers of higher and further education and to make optimum use of the evidence collected. Both parties will also strive to enhance the operation of external quality assurance and promote continuous improvement in the quality of learning provision.

Article II

Areas of Cooperation and Collaboration

QAA and Ofsted will work together to:

- a exchange information and expertise as appropriate
- b liaise over the planning of inspection and review activities
- c foster close working links between key staff at QAA and Ofsted
- d monitor progress with the commitments identified in the HERRG Concordat
- e monitor the effectiveness of joint working in reducing the burden on providers
- f monitor the impact of inspection on standards in both the higher and further education systems.

Article III

Duration of Memorandum

The Memorandum of Understanding will take effect from the date of its signature and shall continue for five years, unless it is terminated by the giving of three months' notice by either party. It may be extended on mutual agreement of both parties.

Article IV

Alteration of Memorandum

This Memorandum is signed by the parties in a spirit of amicable cooperation. The terms of the Memorandum may be altered with the consent of both parties.

Article V

Officers responsible for managing the Memorandum

The Chief Executive of QAA (at the time of signing Mr Peter Williams) and Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (at the time of signing Ms Christine Gilbert) will have

responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of the Memorandum. This responsibility may be delegated to relevant members of staff in relation to specific areas of cooperation.

Article VI

Resources

Unless alternative arrangements are specifically agreed to meet particular project requirements, the two organisations will normally cover their own costs of implementing the terms of the Memorandum.

Article VII

Schedule of projects and activities

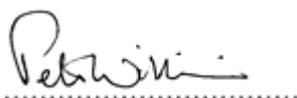
The objectives of this Memorandum will be progressed by the QAA/Ofsted Joint Planning and Development Group. The Group meets regularly to coordinate the planning of review activities by QAA and Ofsted, and to share information and expertise. An annual review of the operation of the Memorandum will be undertaken by the Joint Planning and Development Group in order to evaluate the success of Article II. Any other projects, initiatives or related activities that are entered into under the terms of this Memorandum will be described in additional administrative schedules to be annexed to the Memorandum.

Article VIII

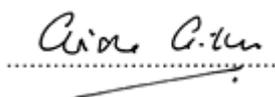
Legal liability

This Memorandum shall in no way create any legal liability of the parties concerned and it does not make either party to the Memorandum an agent or a principal of the other.

Signed in London on 16 January 2008:



Peter Williams
Chief Executive
QAA



Christine Gilbert
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI)
Ofsted