



Y Comisiwn Addysg Drydyddol ac Ymchwil
Commission for Tertiary Education and Research

Condition: Quality and Continuous Improvement

A provider registered with or funded by Medr **must**:

- demonstrate that their provision, including that delivered on their behalf, is of good quality and that they engage with continuous improvement

Condition Category

This is an initial and ongoing condition of registration. This is a condition of funding.

Legal Basis

Under Sections 27 and 31 of the **Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Act 2022** (the Act) Medr is required to set an initial and ongoing condition of registration:

“relating to the quality of the kind of tertiary education provided by, or on behalf of, the provider to which the category of registration relates”

Under Section 108 of the Act, Medr must consider whether to impose terms and conditions relating to “the quality of the relevant education provided by or on behalf of the provider.”

Under Section 5 of the Act, Medr has a strategic duty to promote continuous improvement in the quality of Welsh tertiary education. In discharging this duty, Medr must have regard (among other things) to:

- (a) the importance of ensuring that members of the tertiary education workforce are capable of providing tertiary education of a high quality;
- (b) the reasonable requirements of members of the tertiary education workforce for continuous professional development;
- (c) the importance of the views of learners about the quality of the tertiary education they receive.

Section 50 of the Act sets out that Medr may publish quality assurance frameworks, setting out guidance and information on criteria and processes for assessing the quality of tertiary education, and the roles and responsibilities of persons assessing the quality, and of providers, with regards to quality.

Section 51 of the Act gives Medr a duty to monitor, and promote improvement in, the quality of tertiary education provided by or on behalf of registered providers, or funded or otherwise secured by the Commission.

Section 101 of the Act sets out the basis of the application of this condition to Local Authorities with respect to sixth form provision.

Compliance Requirements

To comply with this condition, providers **must**:

1. take account of the [Quality Framework](#)
2. achieve satisfactory external quality assessment outcomes
3. have acceptable performance data
4. not be considered by Medr to demonstrate a risk to the quality of education

The Quality Framework provides guidance and information on how providers can demonstrate that their provision is of good quality and sets out Medr's approach to assessing compliance with this condition.

In the instance of local authority sixth form provision funded by Medr, the requirements of this condition relate to the local authority's responsibilities for the quality of sixth form provision and their relationship to the governing bodies of schools.

Medr will ask for confirmation that providers comply with the requirements of this condition as part of its Annual Assurance Return (AAR) exercise.

Monitoring

Medr is the educational oversight body for both regulated universities in Wales and higher education providers in Wales with specifically designated courses that are not subject to educational oversight by Estyn, which is responsible for the Educational Oversight of publicly funded colleges. Private providers and overseas higher education providers must have a Student Educational Oversight inspection when their circumstances change significantly, or at least every four years. Medr's requirement for external quality assurance reviews is every six years; however, these providers are able to commission a quality review at a four-yearly interval, if needed for Educational Oversight¹.

Medr will monitor compliance with this condition in the following ways (for definitions of these, please see Medr's approach to monitoring).

¹ These providers will also be subject to annual monitoring by Medr to ensure that they remain compliant with UKVI requirements.

- **outcomes of external quality assessments:** this includes Estyn inspections and QAA reviews. The outcomes of developmental / thematic / geographical reviews will also inform the monitoring
- **data monitoring:** Medr will monitor a range of data, as set out in the Quality Framework. This includes, but is not limited to: Recruitment; Progression; Retention; Completion; Complaints to Medr (numbers and patterns); Learner surveys; Destinations
- **information:** Medr will use a range of information, as set out in the Quality Framework, to inform its monitoring and any resulting regulatory action
- **Annual Assurance Return:** as part of Medr's Annual Assurance Return, providers will be expected to self-declare that they have met the requirements of the condition, with associated evidence where relevant
- **regulatory concerns submissions and complaints monitoring:** in instances where regulatory concerns are raised with Medr, or analysis of complaints data, identifies themes or systemic issues that relate to quality and continuous improvement
- **Reportable Events:** in instances where those events relate to areas of Medr's remit, or advice or guidance issued by Medr
- **engagement activities:** at either provider or sector level, Medr will engage with providers in reviewing how advice or guidance is considered
- **self-reporting to Medr when things go wrong:** Medr expects providers to report to us instances of potential non-compliance in relation to this condition

Providers with a prior record of non-compliance, deteriorating trends in data or identified as at risk of future non-compliance may be subject to increased scrutiny. Failure to comply with monitoring requirements will prompt further investigation and possible interventions.

Review and Amendment

Medr will regularly review this condition, and the Quality Framework, to ensure that they align with evolving sector needs, policy changes, and feedback from stakeholders.