



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

Condition: Validation Arrangements

A provider registered with Medr **must** ensure, where there are validation arrangements in place, that those arrangements are effective in enabling the provider:

- “to satisfy itself as to the quality of the education leading to the award of a qualification under the arrangements.”

Under the **Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Act 2022** (the Act), “validation arrangements” means arrangements between an applicant (or registered) tertiary education provider and another education provider under which the applicant tertiary education provider awards a qualification to a student at the other provider or authorises the other provider to award a qualification on its behalf.

This condition applies exclusively to validation arrangements as defined in the Act. Other collaborative arrangements (such as franchise provision) are regulated separately under other conditions within the Act, where higher education is delivered on behalf of a registered provider.

Condition Category

This is an initial and ongoing condition of registration.

Legal Basis

Under Section 27 of the Act Medr must be satisfied that, “where there are validation arrangements in place, those arrangements are effective in enabling the applicant tertiary education provider to satisfy itself as to the quality of the education leading to the award of a qualification under the arrangements.” Under Section 31 of the Act, Medr is also required to provide a mandatory ongoing condition of registration “relating to the effectiveness of any validation arrangements in place.”

Compliance Requirements

To comply with this condition, a registered provider **must** meet the expectations set out in the following categories:

1. Oversight and Responsibility

The provider **must**:

- take overall responsibility for the academic standards and quality of all validated provision
- have arrangements in place that allow it to assure the quality of the education delivered through validation

The provider **should**:

- ensure oversight arrangements are proportionate to the scale and risk of the validation partnership
- ensure it is clear who is responsible for managing and overseeing validation within the organisation
- carry out appropriate due diligence on partners and keep associated risks under review

2. Formal Agreements

The provider **must**:

- have a written agreement in place for each validation arrangement that sets out how academic standards and quality will be assured
- have effective arrangements in place to assure that learners can complete their studies in the event of changes affecting the validation partnership

The provider **should**:

- ensure the agreement clearly allocates responsibilities between the provider and the delivery partner
- ensure the agreement sets out how information necessary for quality assurance will be shared
- review the agreement periodically, or when material changes or risks emerge.
- include proportionate arrangements for addressing concerns or issues that may arise within the validation partnership

3. Monitoring and Review

The provider **must**:

- have effective arrangements in place to monitor validated provision
- include validated provision within its wider quality assurance processes, including periodic review where appropriate

The provider **should**:

- use relevant evidence, such as learner outcomes and partner performance, to evaluate the effectiveness of validated provision
- ensure validated partners take part in quality assurance processes where needed
- keep the effectiveness and risks of the validation partnership under review and take action where issues arise that may affect academic quality

4. Notification Requirements

The provider **must**:

- at point of application, provide Medr with a full list of existing validation arrangements and partners
- inform Medr when a validation arrangement is terminated or when a new arrangement becomes active
- notify Medr of any material risks to quality, standards, financial sustainability, or learner protection that arise in connection with collaborative provision, in accordance with the “notification of changes which affect the accuracy of information” condition

Evidence of Compliance

The primary source of monitoring for this condition will be a self-declaration from providers that they have met the compliance requirements of the condition.

However, providers **must** retain and be able to supply, on request from Medr, evidence demonstrating how they meet this condition. Our approach to request that information will be risk-based, drawing upon data, prior issues and other evidence of poor performance in relation to this condition.

The provider **must**:

- retain evidence showing how it assures itself of the academic standards and quality of validated provision
- make this evidence available to Medr on request
- keep a record of the validation agreement for each partner

The provider **should**:

- keep evidence of the monitoring and review of validated provision, proportionate to the scale and risk of the arrangement
- retain information that demonstrates how it has considered outcomes, feedback, or other quality related evidence in relation to validated- provision
- use existing internal documentation, rather than generating additional materials solely for regulatory purposes, wherever this is appropriate

Monitoring

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

- **Annual Assurance Return:** as part of Medr's Annual Assurance Return, providers will be expected to self-declare that they have met the compliance requirements of the condition. This will be the primary source of monitoring for this condition
- **QAA review:** where they highlight issues in validated provision or the oversight of validated provision
- **regulatory concerns submissions and complaints monitoring:** in instances where concerns raised with Medr, or analysis of complaints data, identify themes or systemic issues that relate to validation arrangements
- **Reportable Events:** in instances where those events relate to the oversight of validation provision
- **data monitoring:** where validated providers demonstrate poor outcomes data

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 to ensure that it aligns with evolving sector needs, policy changes, and feedback from stakeholders.