

National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning welcome Review Report published by HEA

On behalf of the Board and Executive of the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, I am delighted to welcome today's publication of a review report, commissioned by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) on the activities of the National Forum, since its inception.

The review stated that the National Forum has become '*an essential component of the national-level infrastructure for higher education*' and recommended that the National Forum is to be established on a sustainable basis.

The report captures the impact of the Forum and highlights many of its achievements during the first phase. It points to the strong enhancement-focused partnerships that have been established throughout the higher education sector and highlights how the National Forum has raised awareness, engaged with disciplines and added value.

The Forum is now moving into a new phase of its existence with HEA approving a multiannual funding package of up to €9m over a 4-year period, therefore the recommendations contained in the review are both encouraging and useful as we move to consolidate, strengthen and sharpen our enhancement work for maximum impact across the sector.

We are delighted to welcome Dr Terry Maguire back as Director for a second term to guide the Forum in achieving its key strategic objectives, building on the solid foundation of its accomplishments to date.

We look forward to continuing our collaborative work with all our partners: students, teachers, institutions and their leaders, the QQI, the HEA, and the Department of Education and Skills, to ensure an internationally recognised sector-wide approach to enhancement of teaching in Irish Higher Education.

For more information contact: Professor Sarah Moore (Chairperson, National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning).

Notes:

Following a public consultation process, the National Forum was launched by the Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairi Quinn, T.D., in November 2012.

The National Forum is the key system-level 'Centre of Excellence' infrastructure to support, at national level, the implementation of the recommendations of the *National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030* in respect of the teaching role of HEIs.

The European Commission's *High Level Group on the Modernisation of Higher Education* has cited the National Forum as an example of 'best practice' in the provision of government-level support for the enhancement of teaching and learning in higher education.

Notable achievements of the National Forum include the *Roadmap for Enhancement in a Digital World 2015–2017* and the *National Professional Development Framework*, cited in the independent review as two national initiatives of vital strategic importance for the higher education sector.