

## Communiqué 10 of 2023

**To:** All higher education stakeholders and interested persons

**Subject:** Draft *Implementation Protocols for the External Quality Assurance Functions in the Quality Assurance Framework*: For public comment

The *Quality Assurance Framework* (QAF) was approved by the Council on Higher Education (CHE) in September 2020. The CHE has been preparing for its implementation in 2024, and it was formally launched on 19 September 2023. A major component of the QAF Implementation Preparation Plan was to develop the next document in support of the implementation of the QAF. The Draft *Implementation Protocols for the External Quality Assurance Functions in the Quality Assurance Framework* unpacks the QAF as strategic and philosophical driver of external quality assurance (EQA) in South Africa in more detail. A nested approach will be followed in that each of the EQA functions will be further unpacked in terms of their operational implementation in the form of a Manual for each function.

The Draft *Implementation Protocols for the EQA Functions in the QAF* were developed internally and have already been thoroughly consulted both internally and externally. A series of regional workshops with higher education institutions across the country were held in which the proposed protocols were first presented and a series of questions on the proposals were collected (February – March 2022). A second series of regional workshops were held in February – March 2023, in a full workshop format, in which participants worked in break-away sessions to give detailed written feedback on the adjusted proposals. The extensive feedback from the internal consultation and from external stakeholders was taken into account in finalising the draft document. On 3 November 2023, the HEQC approved that the attached Draft *Implementation Protocols for the External Quality Assurance Functions in the Quality Assurance Framework* be released for public comment. All higher education institutions, stakeholders and the public are invited to comment on the draft before it is submitted to the HEQC for final approval.

Comments should be sent to: [gaf@che.ac.za](mailto:gaf@che.ac.za) by 12 January 2024 on the attached template.

**Template for comment on the Draft *Implementation Protocols for the EQA Function in the QAF*: 9 November 2023**

No.	Subsection of the Draft	Comment	Reason(s) for comment	Proposed amendment	Motivation for amendment
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2					
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Sincerely,



Dr Whitfield Green

Chief Executive Officer

Date: 09 November 2023



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