**QQI and Solas open consultation for new Occupational/Practitioner Award-type Descriptors**

QQI has been developing the way it uses the Common Awards System to help meet the goals of the national Further Education and Training Strategy 2014-2019.

QQI is currently exploring with Solas the possibility of regulating craft awards standards in a more general way through NFQ Award-type Descriptors rather than through QQI awards standards for specific crafts.

Under this arrangement Solas will develop specific craft award standards to be consistent with one of the applicable NFQ Award-type Descriptors. This specific standard will then be confirmed by QQI when the apprenticeship programme is validated.

QQI invites interested persons or organisations to make written observations on: [Proposed new Occupational/Practitioner Award-type Descriptors at NFQ Levels 5 and 6](http://www.qqi.ie/Publications/Award%20Type%20Descriptors%20NFQ%20Ls%205%20and%206%20Occupational-Practitioner.pdf).

Feedback on the proposed new award-type descriptors should be made by email to [consultation@qqi.ie](mailto:consultation@qqi.ie) not later **Friday 14 November 2014**.

**Workshop on the New Occupational/Practitioner Award-type Descriptors**

Solas and QQI will host a workshop event to discuss the concepts involved and the approach.

The workshop will take place on **22 October 2014** in the Goldsmith Hall, Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin 8.

**Interested parties can register for the workshop through the Solas website at** [**Workshop Registration**](http://www.solas.ie/news08102014.aspx).