



Appeal to Review for Educational Oversight

London Educators Ltd, January 2013

Introduction

London Educators Ltd (the College) underwent a Review for Educational Oversight in September 2012. The Review resulted in the following judgements:

- **Limited confidence** in the College's management of academic standards for which it is responsible
- **Confidence** in the College's management and enhancement of the quality of learning opportunities
- **Reliance can** be placed on the accuracy and completeness of the information that the College is responsible for publishing about itself and the programmes it delivers.

The College was advised that it should either apply for a re-review, which would take place six months following publication of the review team's report, or that it should appeal the judgement of 'limited confidence'.

Under QAA's appeals procedure, an appeal can be made against a review team's judgement on the following grounds:

- **Procedure:** That the review team failed to carry out agreed procedures, or exceeded its powers, in such a way that the legitimacy of the decisions reached are called into question
- **Perversity:** That the review team's conclusions were unreasonable or disproportionate in the light of the available evidence. This may be because irrelevant matters were taken into account or relevant matters were not taken into account
- **New material:** There is material that was in existence at the time the review team made its decision which, had it been made available before the review had been completed, would have influenced the judgements of the team and in relation to which, there is good reason for it not having been provided to the review team.

The College submitted an appeal in December 2012.

Under QAA's appeals procedure, the appeal was referred to an Independent Reviewer. The Independent Reviewer may reject an appeal only where he/she decides there is no realistic prospect of the appeal being upheld. In all other cases, the Independent Reviewer will refer the appeal to an appeals panel.

The decision

The Independent Reviewer concluded that there was no realistic prospect of the appeal being upheld. As such, the appeal will not be referred to an Appeals Panel for further consideration.

Reasons for rejecting the appeal against the limited confidence judgement

The Independent Reviewer considered that there was no evidence from the appeal documentation to suggest that the review team failed to act properly in the conduct of the review, and no formal challenge that review procedures failed to meet the standards as set out in the *Review for Educational Oversight: Handbook*.

The Independent Reviewer considered that there was no evidence of perversity. Indeed, it was noted that the Review Coordinator and the team made measured and fair amendments to a provisional judgement which demonstrated clearly their willingness to consider post-visit information. It revised an 'essential' recommendation to an 'advisable' recommendation, and changed the conclusion accordingly to one that 'reliance can be placed on the accuracy and completeness of the information that the provider is responsible for publishing about itself and the programmes it delivers'. New evidence was considered to be sufficiently important to persuade the team that the original judgement was disproportionate, and resulted in an amended judgement.

In relation to 'new material', the Independent Reviewer noted that the College submitted post-visit information, student data and statistics for consideration by the review team. The Independent Reviewer considered that the Review Coordinator's response document addressed the 'new' evidence in detail, particularly with respect to the limited confidence judgement, and that the essential recommendations related to this judgement remained appropriate and justified or materially unaffected by the 'new' material.

In light of the above, the Independent Reviewer concluded that there was no realistic prospect of an appeal being upheld on the grounds of 'procedure', 'perversity' or 'new material'.