1.0 The Forfas report “Future skills requirements of the manufacturing sector to 2020” (Future skills requirements of the manufacturing sector to 2020, Forfas, April 2013) highlighted the “critical shortage of skills in... Quality engineering...”. Furthermore, one proposed solution by Forfas to the skills shortage in the area of Quality was the development of taught postgraduate courses. The proposed delivery of a Level 9 award is designed to teach various quality engineering skills at Level 9 and as such is a direct response to the Forfas concerns of a skills shortage in this area. Personal communication with medical device industry representatives in the area also identified a demand for graduates with strong skills in quality management.

2.0 Findings
This programme was originally developed and approved by IT Sligo. This GMIT validation process was necessary to allow the programme be adopted by GMIT to facilitate collaborative delivery of the programme across both Institutions.

Conditions
None
### Recommendations
- The Department should consider engaging guest lecturers, where appropriate.
- Use site visits to enhance the learning experience.
- Update out-dated references in the resource list.
- Consider developing a further 30 credit programme to facilitate offering a Master’s in Quality.
- Consider getting the programme validated by Professional Bodies.

### 3.0 Resource Implications
- **Self Financing**

### 4.0 Demand and Projected Graduate Numbers
- 20 full-time students targeted to make this self-financing.

### 5.0 For the Attention of Academic Council:

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Dr Joe McGarry Mr. Michael Hannon,  
Chair Secretary