EXTERNAL REVIEW REPORT OF NEW PROGRAMMES

1.	Title of Programme(s): (incl. Award Type and Specify Embedded Exit Awards)	Certificate in Data Protection (Special Purpose Award)
2.	NFQ Level(s)/ No. ECTS:	8 30 ECTS
3.	Duration:	1 year
4.	ISCED Code:	0410
5.	School / Centre:	Mayo Campus
6.	Department:	Department of Business, Humanities and Technology
7.	Type of Review:	New Programme
8.	Date of Review:	19th November 2018
9.	Delivery Mode:	Blended
10.	Work Based Learning (Work Placement/Work Based Project, No. ECTS)	No
	Modules with Failed Elements	No
	Non-compensatable modules	No
	Award Classification	N/A
11.	Panel Members:	Prof Graham Heaslip, Chair Mr Eamon Walsh Mr Tony Hegarty Mr Michael Smyth Ms Carmel Brennan, Secretary
12.	Proposing Staff:	Mr Michael Gill Mr Mark Frain Ms Clodagh Geraghty Ms Ann Wiseman Dr Deirdre Garvey
13.	Programme Rationale:	This programme is aimed at developing knowledge, skills and competencies of those with decision making capabilities in the workplace (or within a voluntary organisation) so that

they can become compliant for the requirements of Data Protection). It will focus on knowledge and understanding of current Data Protection requirements and developments, and implementation of effective Data Protection policies and procedures for their organisations.

'Due to the speed of technological change and its impact on business processes, upskilling increasingly matters for everyone in employment, regardless of their occupation or existing educational level - Opportunities to reskill or upskill can take a range of forms including on the job training, short courses, industry certification and formal education and training programmes….education and training system must remain responsive to the changing needs of the labour market and provide a flexible portfolio of opportunities to meet the needs of individuals and employers.' (National Skills Strategy 2025, January 2016)

Mayo campus is committed to programme development in technology-enhanced learning to stimulate demand and meet regional needs – the basis for these programme developments follows Industry consultation held on the Mayo Campus on 23rd February, at which a number of private and public organisations were involved, several areas were identified as been critical to businesses both in the region and nationally such as Data Management, Data Protection, Security and regulatory frameworks such as GDPR.

The Regional Skills Fora, being developed by the Department of Education and Skills (DES), provide an ideal forum for forecasts and other datasets to be used to inform discussions between employers and education and training providers on skills needs in each region. Businesses are acutely aware of the need to have Data Protection Systems in place and this programme aims to provide those businesses with the knowledge and means to address those concerns.

According to the Data Protection Commissioner in Ireland - "The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will come into force on the 25th May 2018, replacing the existing data protection framework under the EU Data Protection Directive….. so, organisations involved in data processing of any sort need to be aware the regulation addresses them directly in terms of the obligations it imposes." This regulation is now in place and the time for compliance has arrived.

14.	Potential Demand for Entry:	It is anticipated that this programme will attract 24 students based on interest expressed to date.
15.	Stakeholder Engagement:	A wide range of private and public organisations were consulted on skills needs and delivery modes, which fed into the design and content of the programme.
16.	Graduate Demand:	The programme will provide new employment opportunities for graduates and opportunities for career progression for these who are already in employment in the area of Data Protection Requirements and Compliance.
17.	Entry Requirements, Access, Transfer & Progression:	Grade O6/H7 or better in six Leaving Certificate subjects including English or Irish, and Mathematics. Two of the six Leaving Certificate subjects must be passed in higher level papers at Grade H5 or higher. In accordance with GMIT Policy, applications will be accepted for admission through Recognition of Prior Learning, or from holders of Further Education Major Awards at levels 5 or 6. English language requirements are in accordance with stated GMIT policy. Selection: Applicants will be ranked in order of merit.
18.	Programme Structure:	This programme consists of a 15 ECTS module on data protection law and compliance, a 10 ECTS module on techniques and technologies to assist in data protection, and a 5 ECTS module to aid students who may be entering or returning to the work place.
19.	Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategies:	A blended approach to delivery will be undertaken with a mixture of face-to-face lectures/practicals and on-line learning. Active and problem-based learning, online tutorials, multiple choice quizzes will be used on a virtual learning environment. Students will receive online induction in advance of commencing their studies. One of the features of the programme assessment strategy is an integrated assessment producing a tool relevant to the workplace.
20.	Resource Implications:	No additional resources are required to deliver this programme.

21.	Synergies with Existing Programmes:	None.
22.	Findings and Recommendations:	**General:**
		The programme was approved subject to the recommendations (4) listed below:
		Special conditions attaching to approval (if any):
		None
		Recommendations of the panel in relation to award sought:

		1. Ensure that appropriate mechanisms are put in place to support students and their engagement with the programme and learning.
		2. Review learning outcomes to remove reference to relational databases and ensure that Programme Learning Outcomes are appropriate to the scope and level of the programme.
		3. Entry requirements must state any pre-requisite IT knowledge required by applicants, thus removing the requirement for an interview for applicants.
		4. *Consider the following amendments to the Data Protection – Techniques and Technologies module:*
		  - removing Network / Web / E-Privacy (Secure Web Use, E-mail, Data Security, VPN's) and replacing with *Data Protection for Internet and Email (Cyber Security Awareness (staying safe online), Email security and encryption, Secure sharing of information.)*
		  - under the section "**Secure Data Management**" add on "*,secure use of portable computing devices e.g. laptops, tablets, mobile phones and removable storage devices e.g. usb memory sticks and portable hard-drives*."
		  - to cover the technology necessary for both of these, add the following word to the first section "**Data Protection Terminology**" – *Encryption*.

23.	FAO: Academic Council:	Approved:	
		Approved subject to recommended changes:	
		Not approved at this time:	
	Signed:		
		Chair	Secretary