

Protection for Learners (PEL)

Protection for Enrolled Learners (PEL)

As required by QQI, WOT complies with and offers protection for all enrolled Learners (PEL). PEL will only be activated should a programme have to close or cancel unexpectedly, or upon closure of the business. Upon programme commencement, WOT is committed to its delivery, aiming to ensure its completion in full so as to protect the learner. WOT do not commence programmes unless there are sufficient numbers (minimum of 8 Learners). As a Community Service Programme WOT is very accommodating with fee payment arrangements. WOT requires a 25% deposit, after which time and the learner can pay the balance in instalments over the duration of the course of the programme on which they are participating.

Should a learner need to postpone their attendance in a programme, WOT has procedures in place to facilitate them through a programme deferral or the issue of a refund if necessary.

Statement

West Offaly Training strive to provide an alternative learning opportunity to learners in the event of a programme (of three months duration or more) being terminated. West Offaly training is not subject to Section 43 of the Qualification (Education & Training) Act 1999.

Protection of Enrolled Learners (PEL) aims to safeguard a learner's academic journey. It refers to arrangements made for specific programmes to ensure that a learner can complete the programme that they have begun if their programme is no longer offered by their provider for any reason.

A programme in which a learner has enrolled may no longer be offered if a provider stops trading or is unable to continue to offer the programme, for example when it does not have appropriately qualified staff or appropriate physical resources such as equipment.

QQI only validates programmes of education or training where a provider has met specific conditions and criteria. One of these conditions relates to arrangements for the protection of enrolled learners.

Protection of Enrolled Learner arrangements are put in place for programmes which have duration of three months or more and for which fees are paid.

There are currently two types of arrangements possible:

Academic bonding

Academic bonding allows a learner to complete their programme with another provider. This requires a provider to have an agreement with at least two other providers with a similar programme. These other providers will allow a learner in the first provider to finish their programme at their campus.

Financial bonding

If an academic bonding arrangement is not possible, a financial bonding arrangement will be in place to give the learner a full or partial refund of fees paid. The refund amount will depend on the unused portion of the fees paid.

Providers are required to publish details about their Protection of Enrolled Learner arrangements on their website, stating clearly if these involve academic bonding or financial bonding.