

Agenda Item 17

Enclosure 14

Paper ETC 78/02

Education and Training Committee

**PERIOD OF TIME TO BE GIVEN TO AN INSTITUTION
TO CARRY OUT " CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS "**

From the Secretary

for discussion and agreement

PERIOD OF TIME TO BE GIVEN TO AN INSTITUTION TO CARRY OUT " CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS "

1. Background, Current Position, and Options

Any " condition " made at validation of a new course will always have a time period associated with it.

The period for compliance with any " condition " made by HPC at re-approval would have to be dictated by the nature of the condition. Recruitment of new staff could reasonably be expected faster than refurbishment of premises, for example.

There is a difficulty with " requirements " in that the term has different meanings in different contexts. If a requirement is a synonym for a condition, and failure to meet it would prejudice the approval of the course, then the term might be dropped in favour of a universal use of " condition ".

In other contexts requirements are treated as synonymous with " recommendations " and are discretionary and not enforceable. A requirement will normally have a time period attached to it, but there are no general principles here.

Any " requirement " serious enough to bring a course's approval into question should have been made as a " condition " from the outset. An institution could almost certainly challenge the changing of a requirement into a condition after the event, which is why clarity and consistency is so important.

Recommendation

The (internal) processes group is currently developing a glossary of terms to be used consistently by ETC (see item 23 below), and this issue should be referred to them. In the longer term, the time allowed can only be whatever is reasonable for the specific situation. Clarification of terms and then publication of this policy should be achievable in a short space of time.