



If it walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck...

OR “The i-word”

If IQA is a paradigm shift, what impact will it have on practice?

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So, is this REALLY a paradigm shift?



What is a paradigm shift?

- American physicist and philosopher **Thomas Kuhn**: “a fundamental change in approach or underlying assumptions”
- **Merriam-Webster Dictionary**: “an important change that happens when the usual way of thinking about or doing something is replaced by a new and different way”
- **Cambridge Dictionary**: “a situation in which the usual and accepted way of doing or thinking about something changes completely”
- **Urban Dictionary**: “A change to anything being described by a person who likes to use buzzwords... Has no real meaning, but people like to pretend it does.”

Paradigm shift:
represents a fundamental CHANGE
to the way we currently THINK
about or DO quality assurance

How do we think about or do quality assurance currently?

- HEQC Founding Document 2001
 - Fitness for purpose
 - Value for money
 - Transformation
 - ...Couched within a fitness of purpose framework
 - Phase 1 (A and B), Phase 2
- Second Cycle of Quality Assurance (Consultative Document, 2011)
- Quality Enhancement Programme, 2013-2017
- Integrated Approach to Quality Assurance in Higher Education, 2017

Our conclusion, therefore, is that yes – there is a proposed change in the way we DO – *integrated* – quality assurance going forward.



What does “integrated” mean to you?

Let’s build a definition

- Merriam-Webster Dictionary : to form, coordinate, or blend into a functioning or unified whole : UNITE, or to find the integral / fundamental) of (something, such as a function or equation)
- Cambridge Dictionary to combine two or more things in order to become more effective

TUT has presented their good practice. Are there any other examples colleagues would like to share briefly?



Coming back to the initial question – if IQA is a paradigm shift, what impact will it have on practice?

Or as I like to think of it – what exactly is the ‘i’ in IQA?

Internal
Institutional
Individual
Intelligence-driven
Inclusive
International
Innovative
Informed
Improving (continuously)
Integrity**
Independent**
Infrastructure (policy, process, procedure)**



Quality Assurance

EXERCISE

Groups of 8, I would like you to answer the following questions:

- How do we DEFINE our ‘i-word’ in relation to the concept of integration?
- What are some common QA practices denoted by our ‘i-word’?
- In order to achieve the proposed ‘IQA paradigm shift’ presented by the CHE – how would these ‘i-word’ QA practices need to change?
- Name one small change that you could implement immediately in your institution to kickstart the movement toward an IQA system.

So what do I know for sure about IQA?

- We need to break the silos
- We need to collaborate and partner with key role players, including the CHE
- We need to share what we know:
 - If you have good practice – share it.
 - If you have questions – ask them.
 - If you are asked to participate – engage.
 - If you are unsure – benchmark yourself against your fellow institutions both national and international.

We need to internalise our institutional quality assurance mechanisms; apply informed, innovative and intelligence-driven decision-making, to achieve continuously improving and internationally comparable, quality assurance practices.

Thank You

