**Sampling Strategy for Internal Verification and External Authentication**

Assessment portfolios for ALL minor awards will be internally verified per annum.

Assessment portfolios for ALL minor awards will be externally authenticated over a two-year period. All major awards will be internally verified and externally authenticated per annum.

The sampling strategy for Tipperary ETB will be applied by the Internal Verifier and the External Authenticator.

If there are 12 or less assessment portfolios, a minimum of four portfolios will be internally verified (for the sampling part of internal verification) and a minimum of 6 portfolios externally authenticated (to allow for the cut-off points between the grades to be established).

If there are more than 12 assessment portfolios for a Minor Award, the sample will

be generated in line with the following table:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Number of assessment portfolios for a minor award | Number of assessment portfolios to be sampled |
| 13 → 50 | 8 |
| 51 → 100 | 10 |
| 101 → 200 | 14 |
| 201→ 300 | 17 |
| 300 → 400 | 20 |

Where the same minor award is offered in a number of locations in Tipperary ETB, these portfolios may be combined for the purposes of sampling. If this is the case, the assessment portfolios will be clearly identified per location and per assessor so the Internal Verifier and the External Authenticator can ensure the sample chosen includes assessment portfolios from each location and each assessor.

Where one assessor is delivering the same programme module to more than one learner group; for the purposes of Internal Verification and External Authentication, all the learner portfolios for these groups may be combined and the sampling strategy applied.

Assessment portfolios selected by the External Authenticator must include the following in the sample, as appropriate, so as to allow the External Authenticator to determine the cut-off points between the grades:

* The lowest Pass & the highest Unsuccessful
* The lowest Distinction & the highest Merit
* The lowest Merit & the highest Pass

The remaining number of assessment portfolios will be randomly chosen, across all the grade bands, until the sample quota is reached.