

Wednesday, 29 June 2011**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****IVEA DISMAYED AT VEC RECONFIGURATION
ANNOUNCEMENT**

The announcement of a further cabinet decision to amalgamate VECs into 16 new reconfigured entities has been greeted with dismay by the Irish Vocational Education Association (IVEA), the representative body for Ireland's VECs. Commenting on Minister Quinn's announcement, IVEA General Secretary Michael Moriarty says:

IVEA has argued that the previous government's proposals of 16 new VEC entities was undermining of local democracy. Our Standing Council had presented proposals to the Minister which comprehended 20 VECs as a minimum, with, at most, two counties combined. We have consistently argued that remote multi-county regional structures would be too large and too far removed from local communities. Unfortunately the Minister has not altered the number of new VEC entities and this is a gravely disappointing outcome for us.

IVEA does acknowledge that some of the VEC combinations make more sense than what was proposed by the previous government. However, we had a genuine expectation that the Minister would have gone some way towards the 20 VEC entities proposed by IVEA's Standing Council. Our exhortations in that regard appear to have fallen on deaf ears.

IVEA will consider this announcement at a meeting of our Standing Council to be held on July 13th.

ENDS

The Irish Vocational Education Association (IVEA) is the representative body for the 33 Vocational Educational Committees (VECs) in Ireland, and works to protect,

promote and enhance the interests of vocational education and training within the wider education sector and the country at large.

VECs deliver a wide range of educational services, from managing community national schools, second-level schools and colleges, Post Leaving Certificate colleges (PLCs) and education centres to providing training programmes for Travellers, adult literacy courses, prisoner education services, Youthreach programmes, Vocational Training Opportunities Schemes, and community education programmes.

VEC PLCs have developed a range of programmes and courses in response to the needs of industry and commerce which are certified by FETAC at levels 3 to 6, and by the professional bodies which set standards for entry into the professions.