

ENQA webinar on self assessment

The value of the SAR
Fiona Crozier



Introduction

- ◆ Not going to tell you how to do it
- ◆ Focus on the benefits of self-assessment for four groups of people
- ◆ Focus on the value of a recently written self assessment report (SAR)

1. Staff

- ◆ Involve as many staff as you can (project groups, SWOT analysis)
- ◆ The ESG are wide-ranging – from Finance to Reviews
- ◆ Your SAR will be better, the wider the involvement of staff and...
- ◆ If agency staff can see their contributions, this can be culture-changing

2. Stakeholders

- ◆ Expert panel members, external representative bodies, Ministries, students, employers, external members of the agency's board...
- ◆ They have an external perspective and their comments will enrich the SAR
- ◆ They will appreciate being asked, even if they don't comment!
- ◆ Their perception of the agency may change

3. The agency

- ◆ We all tell institutions that the more evaluative their SAR is, the better; well...
- ◆ ...it's the same for agencies!
- ◆ Opportunities for staff engagement and learning
- ◆ Opportunity to engage at a deeper level with your stakeholders
- ◆ The agency will have a document that is an accurate and reflective snapshot in time – SO useful for induction at different levels
- ◆ In some respects, this is more valuable than the review itself!

4. The review panel

- ◆ Value of an open, honest and transparent SAR cannot be underestimated
- ◆ Review panels don't have much time
- ◆ If the SAR is written in a way that lets the panel get behind the description, it will help them to...
- ◆ Corroborate good practice
- ◆ Make useful and relevant recommendations
- ◆ Come to sound judgements

Finally...

- ◆ There's no denying – writing the SAR and preparing for the review is HARD WORK!
- ◆ It did make it easier for us when stakeholders and staff commented on how useful and valuable they found the SAR
- ◆ I can't comment on every case but...our review went well!

SO...GOOD LUCK!

