

## 5. What does an ICT system involve?

An example of an ICT system that supports the teaching process is CBT software, while examples of those that help run the administration and finance of an institution are Coltech and DEB 2000. These systems need an ICT infrastructure on which to run. The ICT infrastructure includes the cabling, servers, PCs, access security, operating software, Internet connectivity and back-up systems. This is often referred to as the computer network. This infrastructure is not an end in itself. It is what enables us to run other systems. It can be compared to the plumbing. We do not spend money on plumbing so that we can have plumbing. We invest in plumbing so that we can deliver convenient hygiene and comfort for our staff and learners. The computer network must enable us to work more efficiently and flexibly in order to deliver quality learning.

Software systems such as Coltech and DB2000 are both supplied by local companies. These systems have facilities and features to process and store data on many aspects of the business of organizations. They are able to process, store and report on the areas listed in FAQ 4.

[Answer to FAQ 5 The NQF, Information Systems and the NLRD]