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*Nigel Palmer*

I am writing to inform you of the Government's view of the position of the Marine Society College of the Sea in the light of the ongoing FE Commissioner and Skills Funding Agency monitoring since the FE Commissioner's initial assessment.

As you will be aware the FE Commissioner's assessment in December 2014 acknowledged that both the Board and Senior Leadership team were keen to make the necessary improvements following your 'inadequate' Ofsted inspection and, at the time of the assessment, had already produced a post-inspection Action Plan. However, he also noted that the college would benefit by developing closer links with the Further Education sector by working with a college that understands your situation and could offer advice on learner progression in order to raise standards. The assessment included a number of recommendations which the FE Commissioner's team and the Skills Funding Agency have been monitoring on a regular basis.

Following this regular monitoring, both the FE Commissioner and officials are satisfied that the Marine Society College of the Sea has made sufficient progress since the initial assessment to evidence that there is no longer a need for the College to be in FE Commissioner-led intervention. The formal FE Commissioner intervention process is thus now at an end. The Skills Funding Agency will shortly write to you about its continuing monitoring and intervention process.

I am encouraged by the actions taken by the college to implement the necessary improvements and welcome the FE Commissioner's confidence that it can sustain improvement. I wish you every success with the continued improvement of the college.

You should note that we plan to publish this letter on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

*W. D. B. Smith*

*Nick Boles*

**NICK BOLES MP**