



Department
for Education

David Nelson
Chair of Corporation
New College Nottingham
The Adams Building
Stoney Street
Nottingham
NG1 1NG



Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

Minister for Skills and Equalities

1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
T +44 (0) 20 7215.5000
E enquiries@bis.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/bis
www.education.gov.uk

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I am writing to inform you of the government's view of the position of New College Nottingham in light of the Further Education (FE) Commissioner's review, and the next steps that will be taken to secure improvement.

As you are aware, in light of the Skills Funding Agency's assessment of New College Nottingham's financial health as 'Inadequate', I asked the FE Commissioner, David Collins, to carry out an assessment. The assessment of New College Nottingham was conducted between 9th and 13th February 2015.

I have now considered the FE Commissioner's assessment, which includes a set of recommendations. I have accepted all these recommendations. A summary of the assessment and the recommendations is provided with this letter. The summary and my letter to you will be published on www.gov.uk following receipt of your response to this letter.

As you will see, the report identifies a number of actions for the college to deliver improved financial management, address issues with data management and deliver quality improvement. It is important that you and the Principal ensure that in future accurate and timely information is presented to the Board in a format that can be readily monitored and challenged. The college will also need to urgently address the matter of funding for the Basford Hall Campus project and ensure that this is delivered on time and to budget, as part of a wider examination of its estates.

Further to this, the report identifies an opportunity to deliver more effective further education provision across the city of Nottingham for the overall benefit of learners. It is proposed that this takes the form of a review carried out by the FE Commissioner and I am pleased that both your college and Central College Nottingham are keen to engage fully in this review.

My officials at the Skills Funding Agency will be in touch shortly to arrange a meeting between yourself and the FE Commissioner to discuss this letter and agree next steps, including how New College Nottingham and Central College Nottingham will work together on the proposed review. New College Nottingham's progress in implementing the FE Commissioner's other recommendations will continue to be monitored alongside this.

If you have any questions about the FE Commissioner's assessment or this letter please contact Michael Nicol (Michael.nicol@sfa.bis.gov.uk) at SFA in the first instance.

Without when

Nick Boles

NICK BOLES MP