



Department
for Education



Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

Carol Jones
Chair of Governors
Stoke on Trent College
Cauldon Campus
Stoke Road
Shelton
Stoke on Trent
ST4 2DG

Nick Boles MP
Minister of State for Skills

1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E enquiries@bis.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/bis

26 October 2015

I am writing to inform you of the Government's view of the position in the light of the FE Commissioner's recent stock-take assessment of Stoke On Trent College.

As you will be aware, the FE Commissioner's assessment in November 2014 identified significant financial challenges for the college and raised some concerns with the clarity of the overall ownership of its curriculum plan. The assessment included a number of recommendations. In July 2015 one of the FE Commissioner's Advisers conducted a short assessment in order to review the progress made against the recommendations.

I have now received the FE Commissioner's assessment report. A copy of the report is provided alongside this letter.

As you will see, the assessment concludes that the college has now addressed all the areas of concern that were identified in the initial assessment by the FE Commissioner and in subsequent stock take assessments. 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 which will remain in place until you have fully complied with all the conditions in the Notice of Concern.

I am encouraged by the actions taken by the college to implement the necessary improvements. The challenge for the college now is for it to develop the financial

recovery plan into a financial strategy for the medium term in order to be able deal any further funding cuts and challenges. I welcome the FE Commissioner's confidence that Stoke on Trent College will be able to sustain improvement. I wish you every success with this continued improvement.

You should note that we plan to publish this letter but will not be publishing the attached report.

With best wishes

Nick Boles

NICK BOLES MP