



Department  
for Education

Regional Delivery Directorate  
East Midlands and the Humber

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Mr P Cox  
Landau Forte Charitable Trust  
Fox Street  
Derby  
DE1 2LF

Date: 29.07.2021

Dear Mr Cox,

**Termination Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Landau Forte Charitable Trust (the Academy Trust) in respect of Landau Forte Academy Moorhead (the Academy)**

The purpose of this Termination Notice is to inform you, as Members and Trustees of the Academy Trust that the Minister, relying on section 2A and 2D of the Academies Act 2010, hereby gives notice of the termination of the supplemental funding agreement for the Academy. The effective date of termination is 1 December 2021.

Following receipt of your representations dated 3 February 2021, the Minister took the decision to wait for the outcome of Ofsted's monitoring inspection before taking a fresh decision about the future of the Academy. We wrote to you on 7 July 2021 to confirm that following the Ofsted inspection which took place on 19 and 20 May 2021, we remained concerned about the progress being made at the Academy. I confirm that the Minister has now reviewed all available information, including the representations you submitted on 3 February 2021 and 9 July 2021.

In your representations of 9 July 2021 you state that you are "*concerned at [our] very selective quotation (and, in one case, disturbingly, misquoting) of the Section 8 Inspection Report.*" We reviewed our use of the Ofsted reports and acknowledge that there was one slight misquote. In quoting the March 2018 Ofsted report as evidence that the trust had not reviewed the impact of training we said that: "*the subsequent monitoring inspection noted that the impact of this training 'has not been reviewed robustly'.*" We should have said: "*the impact of some of this training, particularly in key stage 1, 'has not been reviewed robustly'.*" However, we are of the view that this misquote

does not have a material impact on our argument for termination. The November 2018 inspection reported that staff had received extensive training and that more training was booked but in March 2019, in giving a further inadequate judgement, inspectors said that *“some training has established a more consistent approach to managing pupils’ behaviour and the teaching of phonics and mathematics. However, **these improvements** are at an early stage of implementation and **have not yet had significant impact on attainment or progress across the school.**”* The May 2021 report references training that is being put in place but does not provide sufficient evidence of the impact of earlier training being embedded consistently across the Academy.

Having considered the evidence, the Minister remains concerned about the capacity of the trust to embed and sustain improvement at the Academy. The report identifies some improvements since the inadequate judgement in March 2019 and states that *“leaders and managers are taking effective action towards the removal of special measures”*. However, inspectors did not deem the inspection to be a section 5 inspection and so have confirmed that the school remains in a category of concern and its overall effectiveness grade remains inadequate. The Academy has received two inadequate judgements from Ofsted whilst it has been with the Landau Forte Charitable Trust; pupils in the Academy have been receiving an inadequate education since 2016.

The school improvement journey as evidenced by the series of Ofsted reports since 2016 shows that the trust has taken a long time to tackle the weaknesses in the school. There is limited evidence that previous actions have provided long term sustainable improvement or any real impact on outcomes for pupils. Whilst Ofsted have again identified some areas of improvement in their latest report, it is over two years since the school was last fully inspected and there are still key areas that have not been addressed.

Whilst covid may have affected the recent improvement journey, the trust had a full year before the pandemic struck to make changes towards improvement.

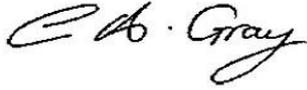
The Minister is of the opinion that your representations fail to provide any further strong evidence to suggest that the trust is making significant and sustained improvement and she has therefore decided that the Academy would see faster and more sustained improvement under the leadership of a new, strong trust.

Your representations dated 9 July 2021 assert that the Department’s reliance on the earlier termination warning notices was procedurally unfair. For the avoidance of doubt, the reasons for the Minister’s intention to terminate the funding agreement were fully set out in the letter of 7 July 2021. Section 2A of the Academies Act 2010 requires an academy proprietor to be given the opportunity to submit representations before the Secretary of State terminates a funding agreement. Such representations were submitted by way of your letter from your legal representatives dated 9 July 2021.

My officials will be in touch with you shortly to agree next steps.

I am copying this letter to the National Schools Commissioner. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Gray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

**Carol Gray**  
**Interim Regional Schools Commissioner**  
**Regional Delivery Directorate, East Midlands and the Humber**