



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Education and Skills Funding Agency
Sanctuary Buildings
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London
SW1P 3BT
Tel: 0370 000 2288
www.education.gov.uk/efa-enquiry-form

16 May 2022

Mr K Hinde
Chair of Trustees
East London Science School
The Clock Mill
Three Mill Lane
London
E3 3DU

Dear Mr Hinde

Financial Notice to Improve

On 1 December 2020, I wrote to your predecessor, Adam Atashzai, in their capacity as the Chair of Trustees at East London Science School to serve notice that East London Science School (the trust) was required to improve the financial management, control and governance at the trust.

This was as a consequence of the investigation report which highlighted numerous examples of breaches of the Academy Finance Handbook (AFH). The Financial Notice to Improve (FNtI) set out the actions that needed to be taken by the trust to make sure necessary improvements were made.

We have closely monitored the trust's progress against the conditions set out in the notice, which included:

- The Trust submitting an ESFA agreed action plan to address the issues identified
- The Trust obtaining ESFA approval for any new appointments to the Trust board or changes to its members
- Supplying the ESFA with notice of all board meetings and for the Trust's Board and Finance Committee to meet a minimum of 6 times a year
- Providing evidence to the ESFA that the trust has considered options for the future, including joining a strong Multi-Academy Trust
- Providing evidence to the ESFA of how the board is holding the Accounting Officer to account, providing regular updates on the actions taken to ensure effective oversight of the principal in his role as Accounting Officer and leader of the academy

- The Trust must send the ESFA all monthly management accounts and cashflow forecasts and comply with the funding agreement requirement to submit all audited financial statements to the ESFA on time and without qualification
- The Trust must calculate and repay to the ESFA all irregular expenditure identified in the Investigation Report.

I am pleased to inform you that I am satisfied that the FNtl conditions have been met. As a result, the FNtl will be lifted with effect from the date of this letter.

This letter will be published on the GOV.UK website. I am copying this letter to Mr N Watkiss, Accounting Officer of the trust and Jonathan Duff, Regional Schools Commissioner for East of England and North East London.

It is important that the trust continues to build on the controls and processes which have led to this improvement and continues to exercise strong financial oversight of the trust, until such time as it transfers into a MAT. I would like to thank you and your board for your hard work and dedication, which has allowed the trust to reach this much improved position.

Yours sincerely



Warwick Sharp
Director, Academies and Maintained Schools Directorate

cc Nick Watkiss
Jonathan Duff