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I am writing to inform you of the Government's view on the position of City of Liverpool College in the light of the FE Commissioner's initial assessment.

The College is the first institution to have returned to FE Commissioner Intervention since the role was created in 2013. It is clear that there have been significant further failings in financial management and oversight. It is also concerning that the College requested exceptional financial support at short notice, rather than alerting the SFA as early as possible when the requirement was identified.

The report reflects that before these problems arose, the College had made progress in its recovery; it also notes that recent failures were compounded by a serious health issue affecting a key member of staff. It is significant that the College's leadership has accepted that it made mistakes, and has started to address the processes that led to those failures. This is critical – the College leadership is accountable for delivering improvement, and for assuring that financial plans are robust and assumptions realistic. While mistakes can be explained, further slippage would be unacceptable.

The Commissioner has advised on balance that the existing leadership should lead the recovery. This is subject to the agencies accepting a financial recovery plan by the end of May and the College demonstrating strong progress at a further Commissioner Stocktake in July. It is also essential that the College continues to play a positive role in the Liverpool Area Review.

I expect these tests to be applied rigorously, and will ask the Commissioner to consider the case for leadership change, or Administered College status if sufficient progress is not demonstrated.

Please note that we will be publishing this letter on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely  
Nick Boles

**NICK BOLES MP**