



## Department for Education

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**Rt. Hon. Robert Halfon MP**  
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I am writing to inform you of the Government's view of the position of Lambeth College following the recent review by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner's team and the steps that will need to be taken to secure the necessary improvement.

As you are aware, following my approval in August 2016 of the request for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) of £2.6m up to the end of December 2016, I asked the FE Commissioner, Sir David Collins, to carry out an assessment of the college. This assessment was conducted between 21- 23 September 2016.

I have now considered the FE Commissioner's assessment. It is evident that while there have been significant failures of financial management at the college; you are now taking the strong and appropriate actions to improve and strengthen the leadership of the college while the Central London Area Review is underway.

I am pleased that you now have in place an interim team with the necessary leadership experience and expertise to drive forward the necessary actions for improvement. The appointment of new members with financial expertise along with a planned further review of the corporations' skills base should ensure the interim team has the necessary balance going forward in order to carry out its duties.

I welcome the improvements that have been put in place to the management accounts and financial controls of Lambeth College; these necessary improvements should now enable credible scrutiny and a robust challenge to the senior leadership of the college.

However, as you are aware, in the longer term, in order to ensure the stability of the college and strengthen provision for learners, a structural solution is required. I commend

your acceptance of the need for such a solution, and I know that the college are striving to achieve such a solution through the Area Review. I thank you for your commitment to that.

The Commissioner has made a number of recommendations for improvement in the short term which I endorse. I have asked the Commissioner to undertake a stocktake assessment visit in January 2017, by which time I expect a potential merger partner(s) to have been identified and discussions towards merger well underway.

You should note that you have two weeks from the date of this letter being sent to comment on the factual accuracy of the FE Commissioner's summary report, in advance of the summary report being published on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Halfon', is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**ROBERT HALFON MP**