



Department
for Education

Cathy Bird
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4 July 2016

Dear Cathy,

I am writing to inform you of the Government's view of the position of Richmond upon Thames College in the light of ongoing FE Commissioner and Skills Funding Agency monitoring since the FE Commissioner's initial assessment.

As you will be aware, the FE Commissioner's assessment in December 2015 identified a number of actions for the college to take to deliver improved financial management. In addition to these measures, you were asked to fully participate in the London South Area Review with a view to ensuring that learners in the area have access to high quality provision.

I would like to thank you for the commitment shown by the board and senior managers in order to quickly address the college's financial difficulties and the positive approach the college have taken in participating in the London South Area Review.

I am encouraged with the college's decision to enter into a draft Memorandum of Understanding with Richmond Adult Community College and Hillcroft College Federation. This agreement should now enable you to explore a strategic alliance, focused on collaboration and joint working activities that will not only extend the range of learning opportunities available to learners and employers in your area but it will also help to remove any gaps in existing provision in Richmond and surrounding areas. Alongside this the college should continue to engage fully with the London South Area Review process and ensure that all options are considered to allow the college to meet the benchmark criteria to demonstrate resilience and sustainability.

In the light of subsequent monitoring of progress by the FE Commissioner team against the recommendations made as part of the initial assessment, and on the basis that the college has entered in to the draft Memorandum of Understanding, I have decided to bring the formal FE Commissioner-led intervention process to an end.

The Skills Funding Agency will shortly write to you about its continuing monitoring process which will remain in place until such time that you have fully complied with all the conditions of the Notice of Concern. You should ensure that the college responds fully to the Skills Funding Agency's requests in relation to this process.

I wish you every success with the continued improvement of Richmond upon Thames College and your continued involvement with the London South Area Review.

You should note that we will be publishing this letter on www.gov.uk.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Boles', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive.

NICK BOLES MP