



Department for Education

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Rt. Hon. Anne Milton MP
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25th August 2017

Dear Dr Tunbridge,

I am writing following the assessment of The Cornwall College Group by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner. The college was referred to the Commissioner because its financial health was inadequate. The assessment took place from 11–13 July 2017.

It is clear from the Commissioner's report that college governors had previously been too slow to react to declining financial performance which resulted in a request for Exceptional Financial Support from Government.

The Commissioner has made specific recommendations for improving governance to build on progress you have already made. I am encouraged to see that under the terms of 'Fresh Start', you have engaged a National Leader of Governance to lead a governance review. The review should consider whether the committee structure enables effective challenge and whether governors have the required experience and expertise to carry out their critical financial and audit responsibilities. The Commissioner also recommends that you refresh the membership and chairs of committees where that has not already been done in the last two years

I agree with the Commissioner that, with the right support, the current leadership team has the potential to secure the necessary improvements. The leadership team should seek professional development and support to enable them to effectively address the college's financial challenges and to ensure it has an effective and sustainable curriculum offer. The Commissioner and his team will engage regularly with the college to monitor progress, and to ensure the right leadership and governance capability is in place to secure recovery.

I have accepted all of the recommendations of the Commissioner and a summary of the initial assessment is provided with this letter. This document and my letter will be published on gov.uk.

Please confirm, in writing, by 12 September 2017 what actions you are taking to address all of the recommendations and your timetable for doing so.

If you have any questions about the FE Commissioner's assessment or this letter, please contact the Commissioner at FE.commissioner@education.gov.uk in the first instance.

I am copying this letter to MPs Hugo Swire, George Eustice, Scott Mann, Sarah Newton, Stephen Double, Derek Thomas and Sheryll Murray.

Done
Anne, 15.15.

RT. HON. ANNE MILTON MP