



Rt Hon Anne Milton MP
Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills
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Caron Montague
Clerk to the Corporation
Barnfield College
New Bedford Road
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Dear Ms Montague

26th Nov 2018

I am writing following the assessment of Barnfield College by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner. The college was referred to the Commissioner following the decline in its financial health.

The college's financial performance is deemed to be weak overall and the failure of the college to put Management Information systems in place does not allow for a realistic picture of its forward financial position. The FE Commissioner has recommended that urgent change is required in the quality and reliability of financial information. I have accepted the Commissioner's recommendations.

Given the significant challenges now facing the college, I am placing the college in Administered College Status with immediate effect. The resignation of the Chair to the Board of Governors on Friday 23 March further intensifies the need to urgently put in place measures to strengthen and improve the governance and leadership at the college.

These measures are essential for the duration of the Commissioner-led Structure and Prospects Appraisal (SPA) that I have asked the Commissioner to undertake. I expect the Board to be actively engaged in the SPA in order to identify a future for Barnfield College which is sustainable and best meets the needs of learners. I expect the SPA to be completed by July 2018.

It is also important that whilst the SPA is taking place, the college continues to take the actions required to contain its operating losses and to meet the needs of learners by improving quality of provision. I have asked the Commissioner to keep me updated on progress.

The report of the Commissioner's assessment and my letter will be published on www.gov.uk. If you have any questions about the Commissioner's assessment, please contact the Commissioner directly at FE.Commissioner@education.gov.uk.

I am copying this letter to MPs: Kelvin Hopkins; Gavin Shaker; Bim Afolami; Nadine Dorries; Andrew Selous; and Sir Mike Penning.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anne Milton'.

Rt Hon Anne Milton MP
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