



Department
for Education

Office of the Regional Schools
Commissioner, North
Academies Regional Delivery Group
Department for Education
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29 June 2018

Gerard Garvey,
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Discovery School

Dear Gerard,

Notice of Termination of Funding Agreement

I write concerning the funding agreement between the Secretary of State and Discovery Learning Limited (“the trust”) dated 14 January 2014.

On 24 May 2018, Katherine Cowell gave written notice under section 2A of the Academies Act 2010 of the Secretary of State’s intention to terminate the Funding Agreement and invited the Academy Trust in accordance with that provision, to respond with written representations by 21 June 2018. No representations have been received.

The purpose of this letter is to give Notice of Termination following section 2A of the Academies Act 2010ⁱ with termination taking effect as of 31 August 2018.

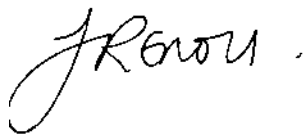
The reasons for terminating the funding agreement are as follows:

- Following the warning notice being issued, Ofsted has now published its report on the inspection of Discovery School undertaken 21 and 22 March 2018. Ofsted judged Discovery’s overall effectiveness to be inadequate and placed the school in special measures. This is the second consecutive inadequate judgement the Academy has received.
- Though assurances have now been received regarding a number of serious safeguarding concerns, I am not convinced the Academy would have had the capacity to ensure the safety of all pupils, had it not been for ESFA’s scrutiny and the interim support.
- Over the past year, we have written to you on more than one occasion indicating our concerns in terms of Discovery’s educational performance, financial position, and leadership and governance. I am not reassured that the trust has the capability or capacity to make the improvements needed at the Academy to ensure pupils receive an acceptable standard of education.

I am grateful to the trust and its employees for their support in working cooperatively with my officials, the ESFA, Newcastle City Council and other Local Authorities in helping identify alternative places for Discovery's pupils. I very much hope that we can continue this to ensure as smooth a transition as possible for all pupils.

I am copying this letter to the National Schools Commissioner Sir David Carter and Newcastle City Council. This letter will be published on www.gov.uk, as is required in all cases of this type.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Renou'.

Janet Renou
Regional Schools Commissioner for North

ⁱ Inserted by section 14 of the Education and Adoption Act 2016