



Rt Hon Anne Milton MP
Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills
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Mr Mark Pendlington
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Deo A. Pendlington

22nd Jersey 2019

I am writing following the assessment of Easton & Otley College by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner following a second consecutive inadequate Ofsted inspection in October 2018. The assessment took place on 31st October – 1st November 2018.

It is clear from the Commissioner's report that leadership at the college urgently needs strengthening in order to increase the pace of improvements in teaching, learning and assessment and student outcomes. In the short term the college will need to invest in additional expertise to bring about rapid quality improvement and will need to balance carefully the need for further efficiency savings against the potentially adverse impact on learners.

The Commissioner has made a number of recommendations including the need for the corporation to fully co-operate with an FE Commissioner led SPA in order to assess the structural options for addressing serious concerns about quality and financial viability.

In parallel to this, the college should urgently review the performance of your senior management team to ensure that the college has the capacity in its senior leadership to deliver the essential improvements. Given the significant challenges now facing the college, I am placing the college in Administered College Status with immediate effect.

The Commissioner, his team and the ESFA 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, within three weeks what actions you are taking to address all of the recommendations and your timetable for doing so.

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

I have written separately to all the following, local MPs who may have learners attending the college from their constituency to inform them of the Commissioner's findings:

George Freeman – Mid Norfolk, Conservative

Clive Lewis – Norwich South, Labour

Chloe Smith – Norwich North, Conservative

Keith Simpson – Broadland, Conservative

Elizabeth Truss – Norfolk South West, Conservative

Richard Bacon – Norfolk South, Conservative

Dr Daniel Poulter – Central Suffolk & North Ipswich, Conservative

Jo Churchill – Bury St Edmunds, Conservative

Dr Therese Coffey – Suffolk Coastal, Conservative

James Cartlidge – Suffolk South, Conservative

Sandy Martin – Ipswich, Labour



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