



Rt Hon Anne Milton MP
Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills
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Andrew Simmons
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Monkswood Way
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31st June 2019

Andrew Simmons

I am writing following the assessment of North Hertfordshire College by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner. The college was referred to the Commissioner because its financial health was inadequate. The assessment took place on 24-25 September 2018.

It is clear from the Commissioner's report that for a number of years the college had a history of poor forecasting alongside a culture of pursuing significant ambitious growth that failed to materialise. This declining financial performance resulted in a request for Exceptional Financial Support from Government.

The Commissioner has made a number of recommendations including that the college review its structure and mission and consider divesting themselves of non-core business elements. The college should also put in place a 'plan B' should the land sale fail to proceed as planned.

Given the significant challenges now facing the college, I am placing the college in Administered College Status with immediate effect.

The Commissioner and 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 FE Commissioner's assessment or this letter, please contact the Commissioner at FE.Commissioner@education.gov.uk in the first instance.

I have copied this letter to all the following, local MPs who may have learners attending the college from their constituency to inform them of the FE Commissioners findings:

Stephen McPartland - Stevenage
RT Hon Sir Oliver Heald -- N E Herts
RT Hon Grant Shapps - Welwyn Hatfield
Bim Afolami - Hitchin & Harpenden

Best wishes


Rt Hon Anne Milton MP
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