

## Michelle Donelan MP Minister of State for Universities

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Alison Munro Chair of Governors National College for Advanced Transport & Infrastructure 2 Lister Street Birmingham B7 4AG

February 2020

Dear Alison,

I am writing following the assessment of the National College for Advanced Transport & Infrastructure by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner. The FE Commissioner's team conducted an intervention assessment on 14 to 15 January 2020.

From the FE Commissioner's report, it is clear that the college faces significant financial challenges and is unsustainable unless structural solutions are sought out as soon as possible.

I am concerned that the college has not developed a robust curriculum planning model. The college faces significant problems with its cost base and the model should be an integral part of the budget planning process. As an FE Commissioner recommendation this should be progressed without delay.

In light of the severity of the college's financial situation, I fully support the FE Commissioner's recommendation for NCATI to be placed in supervised status with immediate effect.

I note that with the resolution of the challenge to the Ofsted judgement a structure and prospects appraisal (SPA) can now take place with a clearer understanding of the college's position. Your board and leadership team should engage to the fullest extent with the forthcoming SPA so that structural solutions are arrived at with urgency. You, the board and the principal should work with your bankers, the ESFA and FE Commissioner's Team to secure short-term stability and solvency to the college. I have accepted all the recommendations of the FE Commissioner and a copy of the assessment is provided with this letter. This document and my letter will be published on gov.uk.

Please confirm within three weeks to the FE Commissioner (FE.Commissioner@education.gov.uk) what actions you are taking to address all of the recommendations and your timetable for doing so.

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 FE Commissioner's findings:

Shabana Mahmood MP – Birmingham, Ladywood

Rt Hon Dame Rosie Winterton MP – Doncaster Central

Yours sincerely,

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