



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Education and Skills Funding Agency
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT
Tel: 0370 000 2288
www.education.gov.uk/efa-enquiry-form

24 February 2020

Dr Donald Graham
Chair of Trustees
Cuckoo Hall Academies Trust
Cuckoo Hall Lane
Edmonton
London
N9 8DR

Dear Dr Graham

Financial Notice to Improve

On 29 January 2015, Sue Baldwin wrote to your predecessor in their capacity as the Chair of Trustees at Cuckoo Hall Academies Trust (CHAT) to serve notice that CHAT (‘the trust’) was required to improve the financial management and governance at the trust.

This was as a consequence of material breaches of the Academies Financial Handbook and Funding Agreement, in relation to the employment and remuneration of familial relations of Trustees and management of conflicts of interest, as well as serious governance concerns. The Financial Notice to Improve (FNtI) set out the actions that were needed to be taken by the trust to make sure necessary improvements were made.

We have closely monitored the trust’s progress against the conditions set out in the notice, which included preparing and implementing an action plan to address the weaknesses identified, reviewing the pay, conflicts of interest and credit card policies, and carrying out a full governance review. I am pleased to inform you that I am satisfied that the FNtI conditions have been met. As a result, the FNtI will be lifted with effect from the date of this letter.

This letter will be published on the GOV.uk website. I am copying this letter to Marino Charalambous, Accounting Officer of the trust and Dame Kate Dethridge, Regional Schools Commissioner for North West London and South Central.

It is important that the trust continues to exercise strong governance and financial oversight of the trust. I would like to thank you for your contribution in ensuring the trust has reached this position.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Pettifer', written in a cursive style.

Mike Pettifer
Director, Academies and Maintained Schools Directorate