



Department
for Education

Mr Mike Hawker
Chair of Governors
Totton College
Water Lane
Totton
SO40 2ZX



Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

Minister for Skills and
Equalities

1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
T +44 (0) 20 7215.5000
E enquiries@bis.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/bis
www.education.gov.uk

21 November 2014

Miss M Hawker

I am writing to inform you of the Government's view of Totton College's position in the light of the Sixth Form College (SFC) Commissioner's review, and to invite you to confirm the actions that the college will now take.

As you are aware, in response to escalating financial concerns, Peter Mucklow, the SFC Commissioner, made an assessment of the college's position on 23 October 2014, in line with the intervention policy set out in *Rigour and Responsiveness in Skills* (April 2013).

I have considered his assessment, which includes a set of recommendations. I accept these recommendations, and I enclose a summary of the assessment and the recommendations.

As you will see, the SFC Commissioner's assessment recognises the efforts the college has made to deliver financial recovery but concludes that the college will not be viable to operate as a standalone college before the end of the 2014/15 academic year. I agree, therefore, that the college should undergo a review of its current structure with a view to arriving at a managed solution to meet the future needs of young people in the area. In the event that a managed solution is not possible, a competitive process may be required.

I welcome the steps the college is already taking to co-operate with the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and I am pleased that the services of the Advisers to the Further Education Commissioner have been made available to support this process. This will enable the college to focus on the essential and core task of supporting its current students and staff and managing its finances in the short term.

Please confirm to me in writing, within two weeks of the date of this letter, the steps you will take to implement the SFC Commissioner's recommendations. Your letter should be copied to Alan Parnum, Deputy Director for Young People, Southern Territory, EFA at: alan.parnum@education.gsi.gov.uk. In the interests of transparency, I intend to ask the EFA to publish my letter and the SFC Commissioner's summary report and recommendations. The EFA will publish the letter online on the Government's website no sooner than ten working days from the date of this letter.

If you have any questions about the SFC Commissioner's assessment, the recommendations or my letter, please contact Alan Parnum in the first instance. I have asked the SFC Commissioner and my officials in the funding agencies to monitor progress and report back to me regularly.

I am copying my letter to the Principal of the College, the Chief Executive of the funding agencies, to Ofsted, and to the Chief Executive of Hampshire County Council.

D. Fitzbert

Nick Boles

NICK BOLES MP