



Department
for Education

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3 February 2015

I am writing to inform you of the government's view of your college's position in light of the Further Education (FE) Commissioner's review, and the next steps that will be taken to secure improvement at Central Sussex College.

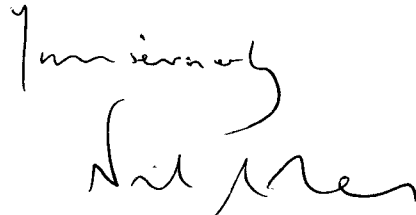
As you are aware, following the notification by the Skills Funding Agency that Central Sussex College had been assessed as inadequate for financial health, I asked the FE Commissioner, David Collins, to carry out a short, sharp assessment of the college. The assessment of the college was conducted between 5 January and 12 January 2015.

I have now considered the FE Commissioner's assessment, which includes a set of recommendations. I have accepted all these recommendations. A summary of the assessment and the recommendations is provided with this letter. The summary and my letter to you will be published on www.gov.uk following receipt of your response to this letter.

The college's financial position remains of serious concern. The work being done to improve cost control and reduce staff costs is encouraging, but the college's debt will of course need to be reduced to a much more manageable level. I would encourage you to work with the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) to ensure that the college has the funds necessary to continue to operate successfully whilst reducing its levels of debt. The financial plan submitted to the SFA is positive, but care should be taken to ensure that the plan takes into account all scenarios. A robust quality improvement plan will also assist the college in delivering the actions needed to raise standards.

My officials at the SFA will be in touch shortly to arrange a meeting between you, the Principal and the FE Commissioner to discuss this letter and agree next steps, and how the college will work with the FE Commissioner. It is suggested that an FE Adviser monitor the implementation of your recovery plan, ahead of a further Stock-take Assessment in the summer term.

If you have any questions about the FE Commissioner's assessment or this letter please contact Hannah Caldwell (hannah.caldwell@sfa.bis.gov.uk) at SFA in the first instance.

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

NICK BOLES MP