



**Department
for Education**

Mr Jonathan Brash
Chair of Corporation
Hartlepool Sixth Form College
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23 February 2015

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

As you are aware, in response to an Ofsted assessment of the college as inadequate, Peter Mucklow, the SFC Commissioner, made an assessment of the college's position on 22 January 2015, in line with the intervention policy set out in Rigour and Responsiveness in Skills (April 2013). I have considered his assessment and I have accepted the recommendations. I enclose a summary of the assessment and the recommendations.

As you will see, the assessment identifies a number of areas for improvement for the governing body and the senior leadership team to address. Governors are responsible for the strategic oversight of the college, and in holding the Principal and executive to account for delivery. They are also guardians of public money, ensuring its effective and efficient use. It is therefore essential that the governing body has the skills and experience necessary to fulfil these responsibilities.

I note and welcome the steps the college is already taking to address the findings of the Ofsted report. I encourage you to continue this hard work and ensure that these actions lead to sustained quality improvement. The funding agencies will be regularly monitoring progress at the college, and will be looking for evidence that the college has responded to the recommendations and is delivering the changes necessary.

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 Paul Williamson at: paul.williamson@education.gsi.gov.uk.



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In the interests of transparency I intend to ask the Education Funding Agency to publish my letter and the SFC Commissioner's summary report and recommendations. I expect these documents to be published on GOV.UK week commencing 23 February 2015; the assessment and recommendations should remain confidential until the point of publication.

If you have any questions about the SFC Commissioner's assessment, the recommendations or my letter, please contact Paul Williamson in the first instance (telephone: [REDACTED]; mobile: [REDACTED]). I have asked the SFC Commissioner and my officials in the funding agencies to monitor progress and report back to me regularly.

W. Williamson

Nick Boles

NICK BOLES MP