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10 February 2016

I am writing to inform you of the Government's view of the position of Ealing; Hammersmith and West London College following the recent review by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner's team, and the steps that will need to be taken to secure improvement.

As you know, the college were graded as 'inadequate' at inspection in October 2015. In light of this, I asked the FE Commissioner, Sir David Collins, to carry out an assessment of the college and this was conducted between 7th and 11th December 2015.

The FE Commissioner team found that although the college senior leadership team recognise the 3 year trend of very poor learner outcomes and has put in place actions to try to ensure the approach to quality improvement is radically improved. It is too soon to judge if this will have the required impact on the outcomes for 2015/16.

The FE Commissioner acknowledges that over the last 15 months the college has concentrated on its financial recovery, implementing a strategy to reduce costs and rationalise its use of sites. While these are positive steps towards turning the college finances around, there is still much to be done as the income levels remain challenging.

In his report, the FE Commissioner makes a number of detailed recommendations for action that the college should take over the coming months. The key recommendations are:

- that the college should continue to pursue a college led recovery process and in parallel, participate in the area review of south and west London area provision, due to being in March;
- as a matter of urgency the Executive Director of finance should revisit the year end forecast out turn for 2015/16; the financial recovery plan actions should be costed and evidence should be provided of the impact of action in terms of savings in 2015/16 and 2016/17; and
- the FE Commissioner team should revisit the college in spring 2016 to monitor progress made against the implementation and delivery of the required improvements, with a view to recommending that the college be placed into Administered College status at that stage if progress is insufficient.

I have carefully considered the assessment, and accept all the recommendations the FE Commissioner makes.

Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College faces a challenging future. I shall be looking to you, the other members of the Board and the college's senior leadership team to provide the appropriate leadership in these difficult times.

A summary of the Commissioner's assessment report and recommendations are provided with this letter. This summary and my letter to you will be published on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) two weeks following the date on which this letter was sent.

If you have any questions about the FE Commissioner's assessment or this letter please contact Stephen Bagley, in the Skills Funding Agency; [Stephen.bagley@sfa.bis.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.bagley@sfa.bis.gov.uk) in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

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

**NICK BOLES MP**