



Department for Education

Mr Mark Pendlington
Chair of the Corporation
Easton & Otley College
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Rt. Hon. Anne Milton MP
Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills
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24th October 2017

Dear Mr Pendlington,

I am writing following the assessment of Easton & Otley College by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner. The college was referred to the Commissioner because it was judged inadequate by Ofsted. The Commissioner's assessment took place from 28 – 30 September 2017.

I was encouraged to note the swift actions taken by the College to address the safeguarding concerns raised by Ofsted during their monitoring visit of your residential provision. The safety of learners is paramount and I welcome the new procedures you have introduced. I now look to you and your leadership team to ensure that these new procedures continue to be adhered to at all times.

It is clear from the Commissioner's report that, following your recent appointment, you and your Board now have a clear focus on the necessary actions required secure both quality and financial improvement, including the need to strengthen leadership.

The urgent recruitment of a strong permanent Principal is of critical importance. I understand you are taking the advice of the Commissioner in conducting the appointment process. I look forward to hearing that you soon have an effective permanent Principal in post.

I have accepted all of the recommendations of the Commissioner and a summary of the initial assessment is provided with this letter. This document and my letter will be published on gov.uk.

Please confirm in writing the actions you are taking to address all of the recommendations, and your timetable for doing so, to the FE Commissioner at FE.Commissioner@education.gov.uk, within three weeks of receipt of this letter. If you

have any questions about the FE Commissioner's assessment or this letter, please contact the Commissioner in the first instance.

I am copying this letter to MPs: George Freeman; Sandy Martin; Chloe Smith; Keith Simpson; Elizabeth Truss; Richard Bacon; Dr Daniel Poulter; Jo Churchill; Dr Therese Coffey; James Cartlidge; and Clive Lewis.

Best wishes
Anne Milton.

Rt. Hon. Anne Milton MP