



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Education & Skills Funding Agency
2 Rivergate
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6EH

Lord Burnett
Chair of Trustees
Plymouth CAST
St Boniface House
Ashburton
Newton Abbott
Devon
TQ13 7JL

Tel: 0370 000 2288
www.gov.uk/esfa

Date: 28 March 2019

Dear Lord Burnett

Financial Notice to Improve

On 22 September 2017, I wrote to your predecessor in his capacity as the Chair of Trustees at Plymouth CAST (the trust) to serve notice that the trust was required to improve the financial management and governance at the trust. This was as a consequence of a worsening financial position being forecast over a five-year period demonstrating the trust board's failure to ensure robust governance and financial management. The Financial Notice to Improve (FNtI) set out the actions that were needed to be taken by the trust to make sure necessary improvements were made.

We have closely monitored the trust's progress against the conditions set out in the notice, which included submitting action plans to address issues highlighted in external reviews of governance, financial management, pupil premium and safeguarding, submitting a viable financial recovery plan, and delivering improvements to internal controls and processes. I am pleased to inform you that I am satisfied that the FNtI conditions have been met. As a result, the FNtI will be lifted with effect from the date of this letter.

This letter will be published on the GOV.UK website. I am copying this letter to Raymond Friel, Accounting Officer of the trust and Lisa Mannall, Regional Schools Commissioner for the South West.

It is important that the trust continues to drive forward the changes required to ensure the trust is able to maintain financially viable in the longer term; it must continue to embed the controls and processes which have led to this improvement. It is important that the board continues to exercise strong financial oversight of the trust.

I would like to thank you and the trust's senior leadership team for your contribution in ensuring the trust has reached this position.

Yours sincerely

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

Mike Pettifer
Director, Academies and Maintained Schools Directorate