



Education & Skills  
Funding Agency

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[ESFA-enquiry-form](#)

2 March 2022

Mr Graham Parker  
Washwood Heath Multi Academy Trust  
Burney lane  
Stechford  
Birmingham  
B8 2AS

Dear Mr Parker

### **Financial Notice to improve: Washwood Heath Multi Academy Trust**

On 10 November 2020, I wrote to your predecessor in their capacity as the Chair of Trustees at Washwood Heath Multi Academy Trust to serve notice that Washwood Heath Multi Academy Trust (‘the trust’) was required to improve the financial management and governance at the trust.

This was as a consequence of an ESFA investigation of the trust which established a number of breaches of the Academies Financial Handbook (AFH) in respect of related party transactions, governance arrangements, external and internal audit, procurement and expense claims. The Financial Notice to Improve (FNtl) 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 all related party transactions being pre-approved by ESFA, the trust board having the appropriate skill sets to hold the executive management team to account, a robust procurement policy, submitting a trust financial plan and updating the scheme of delegation. I am pleased to inform you that I am satisfied that the FNtl conditions have been met. As a result, the FNtl 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 Peter Weir, Accounting Officer of the trust and Andrew Warren, Regional Schools Commissioner for the West Midlands.

It is important that the trust continues to embed the controls and processes which have led to this improvement and exercise strong oversight. I would like to thank you for your contribution in ensuring the trust has reached this position.

Yours sincerely

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

**Warwick Sharp**

**Director, Academies and Maintained Schools Directorate**

CC. Peter Weir, Accounting Officer, Washwood Heath Multi Academy Trust  
Andrew Warren, Regional Schools Commissioner for the West Midlands