



Robert Halfon MP

Minister for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT

Jane Wilson
Chair of Governors
SMB College Group
Thornborough Road
Coalville
LE67 3TN

23 January 2024

Dear Ms Wilson,

I am writing following the intervention assessment of SMB College Group by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner on 2 and 3 October 2023, which took place following the college's requires improvement Ofsted inspection in February 2023 and requires improvement financial health grade.

I have accepted the recommendations of the FE Commissioner, which include developing the recovery plan and curriculum strategy, strengthening the board through both recruitment/succession planning and improvements to papers, and engaging with the Department for Education, Education and Skills Funding Agency and LocatED on various aspects of curriculum, financial and estates planning. I urge the college to ensure they are implemented.

In the meantime the Department is working closely with the college to provide emergency funding to address short term financial pressures and ensure business as usual for students. I am optimistic that this, along with the support being provided and the work being done to action the FE Commissioner's recommendations, will make a significant positive difference to the college group.

A copy of the assessment is provided with this letter. The assessment and my letter will be published on GOV.UK and can be found via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-commissioner-intervention-reports>. Once confirmed, the intended publication date will be shared with you.

I have written separately to the following local MPs, whose constituencies are served by the college, to inform them of the FE Commissioner's findings:

- Andrew Bridgen MP North West Leicestershire
- Alicia Kearns MP Rutland and Melton
- Jonathan Ashworth MP Leicester South
- Alberto Costa MP South Leicestershire
- Liz Kendall MP Leicester West
- Claudia Webb MP Leicester East

Yours sincerely,

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

Robert Halfon MP

Minister for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education