



Robert Halfon MP

Minister for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT

Dr Fiona Wheeler
Chair of Governors
Strode College
Church Road,
Street, Somerset,
BA16 0AB

21st March 2024

Dear Dr Wheeler

I am writing following the intervention assessment of Strode by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner on 4 and 5 December 2023.

I have accepted the recommendations of the FE Commissioner, which include developing a strong curriculum strategy that considers local skills needs, progressing board recruitment and conducting a review of subcontracting. In my view, these are all serious matters, and I urge the college to ensure they are implemented.

In the meantime, and as you will be aware, the Department is working closely with the college to finalise a single improvement plan, which will form the basis of an intervention stocktake assessment in March 2024. 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.

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:

- John Penrose MP Weston-Super-Mare
- Sir Liam Fox MP North Somerset
- Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg MP North East Somerset
- Ian Liddell Grain MP Bridgwater and West Somerset
- Sarah Dyke MP Somerton and Frome

Yours sincerely,



Minister for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education