

Email:  
[RG.SE@education.gov.uk](mailto:RG.SE@education.gov.uk)

9 April 2024

Dear Mr Tucker and Ms Crossley,

### Notice to Improve

On 14 December 2022, we wrote to your predecessor in their capacity as the Chair of Trustees at the National Autistic Society Academies Trust (NASAT) to serve notice that NASAT (‘the trust’) was required to improve the financial management control, and governance compliance at the trust.

This was a consequence of multiple breaches of the Academies Trust Handbook (ATH) 2022 in relation to the following sections:

- Part 1 (paragraphs 1.1, 1.3, 1.12, 1.13, 1.15, 1.21, 1.22, 1.27, 1.33): Roles and Responsibilities – the duties of key people responsible for running academy trusts.
- Part 2 (paragraphs 2.4, 2.9, 2.10, 2.11, 2.19, 2.20): Main financial requirements – the lack of financial oversight.
- Part 5 (paragraphs 5.1, 5.2, 5.11, 5.32, 5.35, 5.36, 5.38, 5.39, 5.40, 5.41, 5.42, 5.43, 5.44): Delegated authorities. The Notice to Improve (Ntl) 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: restructuring the board and recruiting a substantive chair and new trustees with skills and expertise in areas such as finance and HR; conducting an external review of governance; ensuring the trust board establishes an audit and risk committee to provide assurance over the suitability of, and compliance with, the trust’s financial systems and operational controls and to manage risk; implementing new financial management and monitoring structures to ensure improved compliance; updating policies, commission a Schools Resource Management Adviser to identify any gaps and recommendations for improvement.

We are pleased to inform you that we are satisfied that the Ntl conditions have been met. As a result, the Ntl will be lifted with effect from the date of this letter. This letter will be published on the GOV.UK website.

It is important that the trust continues to embed the controls and processes which have led to this improvement, implement the recommendations from the external

review of governance and continues to exercise strong financial oversight of the trust. We 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 'K. Dethridge', written in a cursive style.

**Dame Kate Dethridge**  
**Regional Director, North East Regions Group**

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

**Lindsey Henning**  
**Director, Schools Financial Support and Oversight, ESFA**

c.c. Nicola Crossley – Accounting Officer