



**The Rt Hon Baroness Jacqui Smith**

**Minister for Skills**

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT

Gary Lovatt  
Furness College  
Channelside  
Barrow-in-Furness  
LA14 2PJ

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

Dear Mr Lovatt,

I am writing following the intervention assessment of Furness College by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner on 10 and 11 December 2024.

I have accepted the recommendations of the FE Commissioner which include the college:

- being proactive in seeking support from the FEC – this is likely to include the engagement with both a National Leader of Further Education (NLFE) and a National Leader of Governance (NLG)
- commissioning an independent External Board Review (EBR) and implementing a detailed improvement plan
- delivering a robust Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP)
- increasing management capacity and capability to rapidly improve quality and teaching and learning
- implementing a comprehensive and impactful communications strategy to ensure the college's reputation across both internal and external key stakeholders improves
- reviewing leadership structures in the sixth form to accelerate the pace of improvement and support a single college culture

I urge you to ensure the above recommendations are now fully implemented.

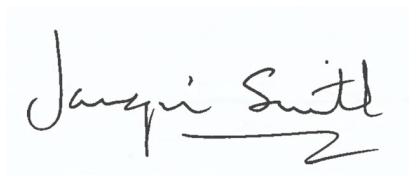
A copy of the assessment is provided with this letter. The assessment and my letter will be published on GOV.UK and can be found via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-commissioner-intervention-reports>. Once confirmed, the intended publication date will be shared with you. The college must also publish the summary report on its website within 14 days of it being issued.

I have written separately to the following MP, whose constituency is served by Furness College, to inform them of the FE Commissioner's findings:

- Michelle Scrogham – Barrow and Furness

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature reads "Jacqui Smith" in a cursive script, with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end of the name.

**The Rt Hon Baroness Jacqui Smith**