



Department  
for Education

Captain Nigel Palmer OBE MNM  
Chair  
Marine Society College of the Sea  
202 Lambeth Road  
London  
SE1 7JW

12 January 2015

Dear Captain Palmer,

I am writing to inform you of the government's view of your College's position in light of the FE Commissioner's assessment, and the next steps that should be taken to secure improvement at the Marine Society College of the Sea.

As you are aware, in light of the Inadequate Ofsted inspection, I asked the FE Commissioner to review the position of your College in line with the intervention policy set out in Rigour and Responsiveness in Skills (April 2013). The FE Commissioner completed his assessment on 10 December 2014.

I have now considered the FE Commissioner's assessment, which includes a set of recommendations. I have accepted all these recommendations. A summary of the assessment and the recommendations is provided with this letter. The summary and my letter to you will be published on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) following receipt of your response to this letter.

The assessment recognises the swift action that your College has taken since the inspection and I am encouraged by the commitment of the College Board and management team to remedy the issues identified by the Ofsted report. However, there is much to do and the College needs to ensure it maintains focus on delivering improvement for learners, in particular those who receive education and training through subcontracted arrangements. In particular it is important that your College improves how it manages its subcontracted provision to ensure that learners are getting a high quality learning experience. Where this is not happening, you should look carefully at whether to continue the present arrangements or if learners would be better served if alternative arrangements were made. My officials at the Skills Funding Agency will wish to be assured of the efficient and effective use of public money and may review the funding at your College.



Department  
for Business  
Innovation & Skills

Minister for Skills and  
Equalities

1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET  
T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000  
E [enquiries@bis.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@bis.gov.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/bis](http://www.gov.uk/bis)  
[www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)

In line with the published intervention document, I have asked the FE Commissioner and his team to monitor and review progress with implementing the FE Commissioner's recommendations through regular review meetings and the FE Commissioner will revisit your College in summer 2015 to consider your progress.

My officials at the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) will be in touch shortly to arrange a meeting between you, the Principal and the FE Commissioner to discuss this letter and agree next steps, and how the College will work with the FE Commissioner and his team going forward.

If you have any questions about the FE Commissioner's assessment or this letter please contact Malcolm Rodriguez ([malcolm.rodriguez@sfa.bis.gov.uk](mailto:malcolm.rodriguez@sfa.bis.gov.uk)) at SFA in the first instance.

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

**NICK BOLES MP**