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I am writing to inform you of the Government's view of the position of South Leicestershire College in the light of ongoing FE Commissioner and Skills Funding Agency monitoring since the FE Commissioner's initial assessment.

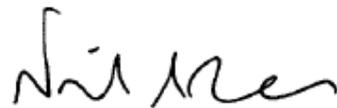
As you will be aware, the FE Commissioner's assessment in June 2015 identified a number of actions for the college to take to deliver improved financial management. In addition to these measures, the FE Commissioner recommended South Leicestershire College and North Warwickshire and Hinckley College should develop their federation model into a full merger, with the composition of a single new Board that has adequate curriculum, business and financial expertise in order to challenge and support the senior management team.

I would like to thank you for addressing these issues and for the determination shown amongst the Board to ensure the college quickly tackled its financial difficulties and I welcome the agreement for South Leicestershire College and North Warwickshire and Hinckley College to merge to form a single college by 31 July 2016, in order to ensure the learners in the area have access to high quality provision.

In the light of subsequent monitoring by the FE Commissioner and his team of progress against the recommendations made as part of the initial assessment, and on the basis that the college has decided to merge with North Warwickshire and Hinckley College, I have decided to bring the formal FE Commissioner intervention process to an end. The Skills Funding Agency will shortly write to you about its continuing monitoring process which will remain in place.

The two colleges, or possibly the merged college, will of course form part of the national programme of area reviews. We currently expect the North Warwickshire and Leicestershire areas to be covered in the latter part of this year. Given the potential benefits to both colleges, however, we would recommend that you proceed with the merger as planned.

I wish you every success with the continued improvement of South Leicestershire College and the subsequent merger with North Warwickshire and Hinckley College. You should note that we will be publishing this letter on www.gov.uk.



NICK BOLES MP