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I am writing to inform you of the Government's view of the position of Mid Cheshire College following the recent review by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner's team and the steps that will need to be taken to secure improvement at your college.

As you are aware, following an inadequate Ofsted inspection grading of the college in January 2016, I asked the FE Commissioner, Sir David Collins, to carry out an assessment of the college and this was conducted between 19 April and 21 April 2016.

I have now considered the FE Commissioner's report of the assessment and in light of the significant weaknesses identified and the concerns regarding the college having sufficient capability in its governance and management to resolve these concerns I am placing Mid Cheshire College into Administered College Status with immediate effect.

The FE Commissioner recommends the Board take decisive action to raise the effectiveness of the senior leadership team and review the college's management structure at all levels. I understand that a new Interim Principal has recently been appointed and I welcome this. In addition to this, I do consider that the Board should also review its own effectiveness with a view to refreshing its membership and enhancing its chairmanship. I understand your term of office is close to an end and would encourage you to quickly identify a strong successor to take the college

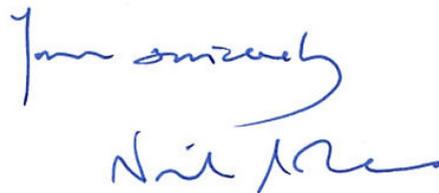
forward. The Board should further develop its Post-Inspection Action Plan to urgently improve the quality of teaching and learning for the college's learners, and to urgently address safeguarding weaknesses. These will be positive steps towards improving communication and accountability at all levels within the whole college.

From the assessment it is clear that the college is in a weak position and should now urgently seek a merger with a strong partner. The ongoing Cheshire and Warrington area review process presents you with an immediate opportunity to look at options for change, for the benefit of learners and employers in the area.

In the light of the assessment, I have accepted all the FE Commissioner's recommendations. A summary of the assessment and the recommendations is provided with this letter. This summary and my letter to you will be published on www.gov.uk in approximately two weeks.

My officials at the Skills Funding Agency/ Education Funding Agency Joint Intervention Team will be in touch shortly to arrange a meeting between you, the Principal and the FE Commissioner team to discuss this letter and to agree next steps, including the implications of being in 'Administered College Status' and how the college is expected to work with officials to improve your college's situation.

If you have any questions about the FE Commissioner's assessment or this letter please contact Paul Williamson (paul.williamson@education.gsi.gov.uk) at the joint SFA/EFA Intervention Team in the first instance.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Boles', is written over a faint, illegible printed name.

NICK BOLES MP