



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Education and Skills Funding Agency
Sanctuary Buildings
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[ESFA-enquiry-form](#)

7 February 2018

Mrs Claire Emery, Chair of Governors
The Ridings Federation of Academies Trust
High Street,
Winterbourne,
Bristol
BS36 1JL
By email: claire.emery@trfa.org.uk

Dear Mrs Emery

On 14 November 2016, I wrote to you to serve notice that The Ridings Federation of Academies Trust ('the trust') was required to improve financial management, control and governance at the trust. This was a consequence of the weak financial position of the trust and continued concerns around governance and oversight of financial management by the Board at that time. The Financial Notice to Improve (FNtl) set out the actions that had to be taken by the trust to create a more viable organisation ensuring value for public money.

The ESFA recognised the scale of the challenge that the Board of the trust faced when they took up post on 1 September 2016 and the commitment and dedication that was required of trustees to turn the situation around.

I am pleased to inform you that I am content that the FNtl conditions have now been met. Furthermore, I am grateful for the assurances provided regarding the improvement of financial management, control and governance at the trust. As a result, the FNtl will be lifted, with effect from the date of this letter.

This letter will be published on the gov.uk website in due course following on from the publication of the FNtl on 14 November 2016.

It will be important that controls and processes across the trust continue to be embedded and closely monitored.

I would like to thank you for your hard work, dedication and contribution in ensuring the trust has reached this position.

I am copying this letter to David Baker, Accounting Officer of the trust and Lisa Mannall, the South West Regional Schools Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

Mike Pettifer. Director, Academies and Maintained Schools Group