



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

October 2017

*Dear Constituent,*

Thank you for contacting me about further education.

The Department for Education wants local areas to be strong and for employers to take a leading role in establishing a post-16 skills system that is responsive to local economic priorities, financially resilient and able to offer high quality education and training. A series of area-based reviews are being carried out to establish how local areas can set up institutions that do this.

Colleges will be invited to specialise according to local economic priorities, to provide better-targeted basic skills alongside professional and technical education. Some of these will be invited to become prestigious Institutes of Technology which will be sponsored by employers, registered with professional bodies and aligned with apprenticeship standards.

The reviews are predominantly focused on general further education and sixth-form colleges in order to ensure there are high quality, financially resilient colleges across the country. Schools with sixth-forms can opt in to a review if they wish to do so and have the agreement of the review's local organisers.

Colleges have the freedom and flexibility to determine how they use their Adult Skills Budget, which will be protected in cash terms at £1.5 billion, to meet the needs of their communities and plan, with local partners, which courses they can best deliver within their resources.

An evaluation of the area review programme will be produced, which will look at its potential to impact on groups protected by the Equality Act 2010. However, it will be for each college's governing body to accept or reject any recommendation requiring a change to their provision.

Taken together, these measures will enable around 1.7 million learners each year to develop the skills employers need with better-targeted basic skills provision alongside high quality professional and technical education at higher levels.



Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris".

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**