



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Education & Skills Funding
Agency
Level 5,
2 St Paul's Place
125 Norfolk Street
Sheffield
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Mr Hugh Greenway
Accounting Officer
The Elliott Foundation Academies Trust

3 April 2018

Dear Mr Greenway

Review of Financial Management and Governance – Alternative Assurance arrangements at Multi Academy Trusts

The purpose of our remote desk based validation is to confirm that academy trusts are complying with the financial management and governance requirements contained in the academies financial handbook (AFH). We review responses and evidence to confirm that arrangements in overseeing governance arrangements of academies joining MATs, particularly where academies have joined after the accounting year-end comply with the AFH.

As part of our assurance work, the following areas were reviewed together with the supporting evidence, which was supplied by the trust.

- Financial oversight
- Financial planning
- Internal control
- Financial monitoring and management
- Proper and regular use of public funds
- Audit requirements
- General requirements

Our conclusion

We have reviewed the supporting evidence/ documentation and your responses to the specific questions set out in the Alternative Assurance Questionnaire. Our review confirms:

That the trust is Compliant within the testing scope. No major issues/ concerns raised.

We have raised one best practice recommendation to strengthen your overall controls below:

- The trust is advised to include a mirror copy of Annex B 'Schedule of Freedoms and Delegations' at the back of their Finance Manual.

Yours sincerely

Mark Jess
Education & Skills Funding Agency