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24 March 2021

Dan Jarvis MP
House of Commons
Westminster
SW1A 0AA

Amanda Spielman
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

Dear Mr Jarvis

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NUMBER 170644

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment his Department has made of the quality of teaching and learning at Northern College in Barnsley.

Your recent Parliamentary Question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

The most recent Ofsted full inspection report which provides an assessment of the quality of teaching and learning can be found here:

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/31/130525>

As a consequence of being judged outstanding in 2014 this college has, up until January 2021, been exempt from inspection. Now that Parliament has passed 'The Education (Exemption from School and Further Education Institutions Inspections) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2020' Ofsted can and must routinely inspect outstanding colleges, including Northern College. However, routine inspection has been suspended since 17 March 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic. Ofsted is working towards returning to routine inspection activity as soon as possible.

In December 2020, Ofsted carried out an interim visit to Northern College which can also be seen at the above link.

As part of our phased return to routine inspections, we carried out 'interim visits' to further education and skills providers during autumn 2020. These were carried out under Covid conditions and were not full Ofsted inspections. They were to help learners, parents, employers and government understand how providers are meeting the needs of learners in that period. The findings were based on discussions with leaders, managers, staff and learners.

I hope you find the information helpful.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Spielman

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