

PERSONAL STATEMENT ISSUED IN RESPONSE TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION
REPORT INTO DURAND EDUCATION TRUST
BY SIR GREG MARTIN
Full press embargo until 00:01 Oct 21st 2016

NOTE: Sir Greg Martin is not a member of the DET, this is his personal response to the report and press statement by the Charity Commission (which is also embargoed until 00:01 Oct 21st 2016). A full and considered response from the DET will follow later today.

Sir Greg Martin says:

"I am puzzled and bemused that after a two year forensic investigation conducted by ten investigators, the Charity Commission has failed to address the pivotal role of the Education Funding Agency and failed to address the fact that the trustees of DET, as lay people, should have been able to rely upon the role, advice and oversight of the EFA as regulators. In this they have been let down."

Sir Greg Martin is further disappointed and confused as to why the Charity Commission have failed to fully reference the findings of the independent MMK report into his remuneration which was commissioned at a cost of over £50,000 (paid for by DET at the insistence of the Charity Commission, and a summary of whose findings are attached to this email) which concluded that his remuneration represented value for money and was reasonable and fair. "Given the conclusions of the MMK report, it is surprising the Charity Commission consider the payments to me 'over-generous', when the MMK report clearly states they are 'reasonable'.

Sir Greg Martin continues:

"The trustees of DET are lay people who should have been able to rely on the EFA as regulators and whenever there has been a decision to make they have always sought appropriate legal advice and followed it, always acting in good faith. It is disappointing that this has not been recognised by the Charity Commission. It is a fact that the regulators gave wrong and misleading advice which the trustees, as lay people, had a right to believe was correct advice. It was not. The EFA, in particular, were pivotal in sowing the seeds of confusion. I'm disappointed there is no mention of these failures by the regulators. Instead the report prefers to blame the lay people who acted in good faith. Can this be either just, or fair?"

Further, Sir Greg Martin would like to make it clear that while he welcomes the fact that his decision to accept a 65% cut in his remuneration and to donate the balance to the Trust, is recognised in the Charity Commission report, what is not recognised is that he made this decision before the enquiry was started and that he did so unprompted by any agency.

“The Durand Academy has produced results for its students always graded ‘exceptional’ or ‘good’ by Ofsted and I myself have dedicated my career to the furtherance of education for pupils from all backgrounds and to the establishment of a secure financial basis for the DET and to create benefits for the community and pupils including Britain’s only fully free state boarding school and exceptional facilities – it is disappointing that for this I have been subjected to a campaign of vilification.”

Sir Greg Martin is available for interview.

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