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D - Jeremy

Thank you for your email of 5 June, regarding Staffordshire University's plans to close part of its Stafford campus.

I understand you brought your concerns to the attention of BIS Ministers last year. I know one of my predecessors wrote to the Vice-Chancellor at Staffordshire to ask for an explanation of the institution's plans and emphasise the importance of consulting and working with local partners as they were taken forward. I am sorry that you still have concerns. I do understand that the institution's plans raise important issues for the town and I shall write again to the VC; to encourage him to do all he can to address these issues.

I understand that the decision to close part of the campus was made based on the economic viability of the University. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), which is responsible for issues relating to the funding of individual universities, advises that Staffordshire's plans are central to its long term financial sustainability. They will save around £4m per year and are a pivotal part of the financial restructuring the institution needs to achieve.

All that said, it remains crucial that the University continues to take local opinion into account and I hope my intervention with the VC will help to facilitate this process further.

SAJID JAVID

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and President of the Board of Trade