

RH / TAC

26<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Rt Hon Ben Bradshaw MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

## Dear Mr Bradshaw

Thank you for offering us the opportunity to provide you with some additional assurance around the issues raised by Mr Alan Dransfield and our former employee, Mr Andy Brewer.

As we outlined in previous correspondence to you, we have taken significant steps to ensure that we build trust and confidence in Carillion's stewardship of the 6 PFI schools for the owners, Modern Schools for Exeter Ltd (MSEL) and Devon County Council. This has included a complete restructure of the management team and a number of internal audits in support of the change. We intend to remobilise the contract in order to generate a detailed understanding of any possible lessons learned that we can implement and to use our contract as an exemplar for other contracts in its renewed state..

As you are aware, a metals result was falsified before it was provided to both MSEL and DCC. It is still a matter of conjecture why the falsification was undertaken, because at the time the school in question was already using bottled water, and there was no opportunity for the contaminated water to have been consumed by anyone.

Following the discovery of falsification an investigation was undertaken and the individual in question no longer works for the company. Such behaviour fails to meet the company standard expected and runs contrary to the Value of 'Openness' that is a key attribute we require of our staff.

A process of remedial activity is being concluded by 21<sup>st</sup> September and this will guarantee that all available mains-supplied drinking water outlets are free from metals contamination. The independent test results from South West water's laboratories confirm this. This provides a clean bill of health on all available drinking water outlets at all six schools that has been verified independently by the Regional Director independent consultant AECOM, based at Pynes Hill.

Furthermore we were delighted to be able to report that the restrictions on water usage at West Exe Technology College in toilets, in classrooms and kitchens were lifted at the start of term and that the long-suffering school community was able to return to normality after months of protective intervention.

We are aware of Mr Dransfield's and Mr Brewer's concerns and want to assure you that notwithstanding any investigation that has been undertaken in the past, we will continue to review the situation closely to demonstrate that the contract is being run in full compliance with all relevant statutory obligations.

We take seriously our position as the guardian of the safety of thousands of pupils and their teachers and recognise that following the recent issues with water quality we have a reputation to build more strongly. We take this responsibility seriously and will ensure that, as a community representative, you can be assured that our responsibility will be fully and unequivocally discharged.

Yours sincerely

Rob Holt

Managing Director

Carillion Local Government Services