Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/23 Form 2

To be completed only by Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other smaller authorities* where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less, that meet the qualifying criteria, and that wish to CERTIFY themselves as EXEMPT from a limited assurance review

Guidance notes on completing Form 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/23

- Every smaller authority in England where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000
 or less must, after the end of each financial year, complete Form 2 of the Annual Governance and
 Accountability Return in accordance with Proper Practices, unless the authority:
 - a) does not meet the qualifying criteria for exemption; or
 - b) does not wish to certify itself as exempt
- 2. Smaller authorities where the higher of all gross annual income or gross annual expenditure does not exceed £25,000 and that meet the qualifying criteria as set out in the Certificate of Exemption are able to declare themselves exempt from sending the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor for a limited assurance review provided the authority completes:
 - a) The Certificate of Exemption, page 3 and returns a copy of it to the external auditor either by email or by post (not both) no later than 30 June 2023. Failure to do so will result in reminder letter(s) for which the Authority will be charged £40 +VAT for each letter; and
 - b) The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (Form 2) which is made up of:
 - Annual Internal Audit Report (page 4) must be completed by the authority's internal auditor.
 - Section 1 Annual Governance Statement (page 5) must be completed and approved by the authority.
 - Section 2 Accounting Statements (page 6) must be completed and approved by the authority.
 NOTE: Authorities certifying themselves as exempt SHOULD NOT send the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor.
- The authority must approve Section 1 Annual Governance Statement before approving Section 2
 Accounting Statements and both must be approved and published on the authority website/webpage
 before 1 July 2023.

Publication Requirements

Smaller authorities must publish various documents on a publicly available website as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. These include:

- · Certificate of Exemption, page 3
- Annual Internal Audit Report 2022/23, page 4
- Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2022/23, page 5
- Section 2 Accounting Statements 2022/23, page 6
- Analysis of variances
- Bank reconciliation
- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and other information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Limited Assurance Review

Any smaller authority may request a limited assurance review. If so, the authority should not certify itself as exempt or complete the Certificate of Exemption. Instead it should complete Form 3 of the AGAR 2022/23 and return it to the external auditor together with the supporting documentation requested by the external auditor. The cost to the authority for the review will be £210 +VAT.

Provided that the authority certifies itself as exempt, and completes and publishes the documents listed under 'Publication Requirements', there is no requirement for the authority to have a review.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return constitutes the annual return referred to in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Throughout, the words 'external auditor' have the same meaning as the words 'local auditor' in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

for a complete list of hodies that may be smaller authorities refer to schedule 2 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Guidance notes on completing Form 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2022/23, Sections 1 and 2

- An authority that wishes to declare itself exempt from the requirement for a limited assurance review must do so at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2023. It should not submit its Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor. However, as part of a more proportionate regime, the authority must comply with the requirements of the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.
- The Certificate of Exemption must be returned to the external auditor no later than 30 June 2023. Reminder letters will incur a charge of £40 +VAT for each letter.
- The authority must comply with Proper Practices in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this AGAR and the Certificate of Exemption. Proper Practices are found in the Practitioners' Guide* which is updated from time to time and contains everything needed to prepare successfully for the financial year-end.
- The authority should receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report before approving the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts.
- The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) must be approved on the same day or before the Accounting Statements (Section 2) and evidenced by the agenda or minute references
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) must certify the accounts (Section 2) before they are presented to the authority for approval. The authority must in this order, consider, approve and sign the accounts.
- The RFO is required to commence the public rights period as soon as practical after the date of the AGAR approval.
- Make sure that the AGAR is complete (no highlighted boxes left empty), and is properly signed and dated.
 Any amendments must be approved by the authority and properly initialled.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the AGAR for completeness at the meeting at which it is signed off.
- You must inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chairman, and provide relevant authority owned generic email addresses and telephone numbers.
- The authority must publish numerical and narrative explanations for significant variances in the accounting statements on page 6. Guidance is provided in the Practitioners' Guide* which may assist.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2022) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2023).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, must set the commencement date for the
 exercise of public rights of 30 consecutive working days which must include the first ten working days of July.
- The authority must publish, on the authority website/webpage, the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, including the period for the exercise of public rights and the name and address of the external auditor before 1 July 2023.

oompletion check	ist - 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements	Yes	No
All sections	Have all highlighted boxes have been completed?	V	
	Have the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights been published?		
Internal Audit Report	Have all highlighted boxes been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?	1	_
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', is an explanation available for publication?	7	
Section 2	Has the Responsible Financial Officer signed the accounting statements before presentation to the authority for approval?	V	
	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chairman of the approval meeting?	~	
	Has an explanation of significant variations been published where required?	V	
	Has the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2023 been reconciled to Box 8?	V	
	Is an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 available, should a question be raised by a local elector and/or an interested party?	V	
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? (Local Councils only)	nla	

*Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices, can be downloaded from www.nalc.gov.uk or from www.ada.org.uk

Certificate of Exemption - AGAR 2022/23 Form 2

To be completed by smaller authorities where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25,000 in the year of account ended 31 March 2023, and that wish to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015

There is no requirement to have a limited assurance review or to submit an Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor, **provided** that the authority has certified itself as exempt at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2023 and a completed Certificate of Exemption is submitted no later than 30 June 2023 notifying the external auditor.

Ridlington Parish Council

certifies that during the financial year 2022/23, the higher of the authority's total gross income for the year or total gross annual expenditure, for the year did not exceed £25,000

£4369

Total annual gross income for the authority 2022/23:

Total annual gross expenditure for the authority 2022/23:

25550

There are certain circumstances in which an authority will be unable to certify itself as exempt, so that a limited assurance review will still be required. If an authority is unable to confirm the statements below then it cannot certify itself as exempt and it must submit the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return Form 3 to the external auditor to undertake a limited assurance review for which a fee of £210 +VAT will be payable.

By signing this Certificate of Exemption you are confirming that:

- The authority was in existence on 1st April 2019
- In relation to the preceding financial year (2021/22), the external auditor has not:
 - · issued a public interest report in respect of the authority or any entity connected with it
 - · made a statutory recommendation to the authority, relating to the authority or any entity connected with it
 - issued an advisory notice under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 8 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ("the Act"), and has not withdrawn the notice
 - commenced judicial review proceedings under section 31(1) of the Act
 - made an application under section 28(1) of the Act for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, and the application has not been withdrawn nor has the court refused to make the declaration
- The court has not declared an item of account unlawful after a person made an appeal under section 28(3) of the Act.
 If the above statements apply and the authority neither received cross income account unlawful after a person made an appeal under section 28(3) of the Act.

If the above statements apply and the authority neither received gross income, nor incurred gross expenditure, exceeding £25,000, then the Certificate of Exemption can be signed and a copy submitted to the external auditor either by email or by post (not both).

The Annual Internal Audit Report, Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Statements, an analysis of variances and the bank reconciliation plus the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 including the period for the exercise of public rights still need to be fully completed and, along with a copy of this certificate, published on the authority website/webpage* before 1 July 2023. Signing this certificate confirms the authority will comply with the publication requirements.

Signed by the Responsible Financial Officer

25/04/202

I confirm that this Certificate of Exemption was approved by this authority on this date:

25/04/2023

Signed by Chairman

Date

as recorded in minute reference:

2023/27€

Generic email address of Authority clerk@ridlingtonparishcouncil.org

Telephone number 01572 759554

*Published web address

www.ridlingtonparishcouncil.org

ONLY this Certificate of Exemption should be returned EITHER by email OR by post (not both) as soon as possible after certification to your external auditor, but no later than 30 June 2023. Reminder letters for late submission will incur a charge of £40 + VAT.

Annual Internal Audit Report 2022/23

Ridlington Parish Council

www.ridlingtonparishcouncil.org

During the financial year ended 31 March 2023, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2022/23 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Yes	No.	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.			
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	1		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	V		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress agains the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	V		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.			
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			
 Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied. 	/		
 Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained. 	-		-
Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.			
Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	-		
If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2021/22, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2021/22 AGAR tick "not covered")			
. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.			
I. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (during the 2022-23 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2021-22 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).			
The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2021/22 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	~		
(For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No I	Not applicable

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

15/04/2023 Signature of person who

carried out the internal audit

PORTIA RAWDEN 15/04/2023

"If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

""Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

We acknowledge as the members of:

Ridlington Parish Council

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023, that:

	Ag	Agreed		THE SECOND SECON
	Yes	No	'Yes'	means that this authority
 We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements. 	~		prepa with th	red its accounting statements in accordance the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	~		made for sal its cha	proper arrangements and accepted responsibility leguarding the public money and resources in urge.
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	v		has or compl	nly done what it has the legal power to do and has fied with Proper Practices in doing so,
 We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations. 	~		during inspec	the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to t and ask questions about this authority's accounts.
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	v		consid faces a	ered and documented the financial and other risks it and dealt with them properly.
 We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems. 	~		control	ed for a competent person, independent of the financial s and procedures, to give an objective view on whether I controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.
 We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit. 	~			ded to matters brought to its attention by internal and
We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or disclosed everything it should have all		ed everything it should have about its business activity the year including events taking place after the year		
(For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A	has met all of its responsibilities where as a body corporate it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

*For any statement to which the response is 'no', an explanation must be published

This Annual Governance Statement was	approved	at a
meeting of the authority on:	-pp-orea	

25/04/2023

and recorded as minute reference:

2013/27 C.

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Clerk

Whi chenny

Information required by the Transparency Code (not part of the Annual Governance Statement)

The authority website/webpage is up to date and the information required by the Transparency Code has been published.

Yes

www.ridlingtonparishcouncil.org

Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2022/23 for

Ridlington Parish Council

	Year	ending	Notes and guidance
	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2023 £	Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures mu agree to underlying financial records.
Balances brought forward	1298	167	8 Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
(+) Precept or Rates and Levies	4340	434	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	0	29	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	2979	3846	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	C	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any,
6. (-) All other payments	981	1704	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash- book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	1678	497	
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	1678	497	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	229732	229732	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
Total borrowings	0	q	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
or Local Councils Only	Yes	No N/A	
1a. Disclosure note re Trust fund	is .		The Council as a bud

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A	
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds				The Council as a hady compared
(including charitable) 11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds				The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
(including charitable)			~	The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2023 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

Date 25 04 2 02 3

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

25/04/2023.

as recorded in minute reference:

2023/27 d

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

D-4-0

Smaller authority name:

Ridlington Poush Council

NOTICE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS AND PUBLICATION OF UNAUDITED ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 Sections 26 and 27

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015	(234)
NOTICE	NOTES
1. Date of announcement 4. The formula of the smaller authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). The AGAR has been published with this notice. It will not be reviewed by the appointed auditor, since the smaller authority has certified itself as exempt from the appointed auditor's review. Any person interested has the right to inspect and make copies of the accounting records for the financial year to which the audit relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records must be made available for inspection by any person interested. For the year anded 31 March 2000, the second contracts of the present and all person interested.	
(b) HOUCCAND - Paush Clark Shaddle Way, Langhan Commencing on (c) 5 th June 2023	(b) Insert name, position and address/telephone number/ email address, as appropriate, of the Clerk or other person to which any person may apply to inspect the accounts
and ending on (d) I (Lth J Wy 2023 [the 30th working day after (c) above]	(c) Insert date, which must be at least 1 day after the date of announcement in (a) above and extends for a single period of 30 working days (inclusive) ending on the date appointed in (d) below
Local government electors and their representatives also have: The opportunity to question the appointed auditor about the accounting records; and	(d) The inspection period between (c) and (d) must also include the first 10 working days of July.
 The right to make an objection which concerns a matter in respect of which the appointed auditor could either make a public interest report or apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful. Written notice of an objection must first be given to the auditor and a copy sent to the smaller authority. 	
The appointed auditor can be contacted at the address in paragraph 4 below for this purpose between the above dates only.	
The smaller authority's AGAR is subject to review by the appointed auditor ider the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the appointed auditor is:	
Moore (Ref AP/HD) MOORE	

Rutland House, Minerva Business Park, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6PZ

(e) Insert name and position of person placing the notice - this person must be the responsible financial officer for the smaller authority

5. This announcement is made by (e) H DUCKERN & RfO

LOCAL AUTHORITY ACCOUNTS: A SUMMARY OF YOUR RIGHTS

Please note that this summary applies to all relevant smaller authorities, including local councils, internal drainage boards and 'other' smaller authorities.

The basic position

By law, any interested person has the right to inspect the accounting records of smaller authorities. If you are a local government elector or registered to vote in the local councils' elections, then you are able to ask questions about the accounts and object to them.

The right to inspect the accounting records

When your council has finalised its accounts for the previous financial year, they must advertise that they are available for people to inspect. You must then provide the council with reasonable notice of your intentions. Following this, by arrangement you will then have 30 working days to inspect and make copies of the accounting records and supporting documents. You may be required to pay a copying charge.

The right to ask the auditor questions about the accounting records

If you have any questions regarding the accounting records, you should first ask your smaller authority. This must be done during the 30-day period for the exercise of public rights. You may also ask the appointed auditor questions about an item in the accounting records. However, the auditor can only answer 'what' questions, not 'why' questions so is limited with their response. To avoid any confusion, it is advised that you put your questions in writing.

The right to make objections

Should you view something as unlawful or believe there are matters of wider concern in the accounts, you may wish to object. If you are a local government elector, you have the right to ask the external auditor to apply to the courts for a declaration that an item is contrary to the law and should be reported as a matter of public interest. This must be done by telling the appointed auditor which specific item in the accounts you object to and why you believe it to be unlawful or think a public interest report should be made about it. You must provide clear evidence to support your objection, and this should be done in writing and the copied to the council.

You should not use the 'right to object' to make a personal complaint or claim against your smaller authority. Complaints of this nature should be taken to your local Citizens' Advice Bureau, local Law Centre or to your solicitor.

A final word

Smaller authorities, and so local taxpayers, meet the costs of dealing with questions and objections. In deciding whether to take your objection forward, the auditor must consider the cost that will be involved. They will only continue with the objection if it is in the public interest to do so. If you appeal to the courts against an auditor's decision, you may have to pay for the action yourself.

Explanation of variances 2022/23 - pro formation of sealer action to the property of the prope

	2003	2022	Variance Variance		Explanation Regulard? In 9 15% In 9 E100.0	Required?	DO NOT DYTEWARD THE GOXES HORS OFFED IN Corby of or teast indusk months and aspectical counts.
* Searces Bought Forward	5.288	1,673					Engineels and is assessed for opening betate and
S Procept or Rates and Leves	4,340	4,540	0	0000	ON	ON	
3 Total Other Receipts	0	2	93		83.	OV	Explanation act required, dehicence has then (200) VAT 16And received CZ7.23. Interestructived STEO. Prescue year NLL VAT and referred cortex CT.
4 Such Copts	2,279	3,014	200	28.10%	£	9	NAME pay increase tockpay E117 21/22 paid 32/23. NALE pay away dish 25 piling pada 20/22/23 63/28 Out activity HVME PAYE payment make in 20/23/30.
Euban Interest Cappiel Repayment	4	0	٥	1,000	NO	NO	
EM Deur Paymonta	2	1284	E.	79,70%	193 A	N N	Constone made to Perform Justine and Counter prevailants (200, Severighting past increases (219) Services wide the continue prevailant increases (2)
7 Balances Carried Powers	1,011	487	1,161	2038%	YES	04	
#Total Cash and Shraf Torm Investments	4,019	elst	-1.161	9,000,00	Yes.	02	
STotal Fixed Asserts plus Other Long Yerm Presstreads and Asses.	528,325	202232	0	0.00%	02	04	
11 Tata Borrowngs		0	٥	5000	DN	02	
Section Reserves Parts	0.380006	0.114618					

Bank reconciliation 31/03/23 Ridlington Parish Council

697.01		ř.	200.00	497.01
Balanceper bank statement at 31 March 2023	Add: outstanding receipts	Less: outstanding payments		Balance per cashbook at 31 March 2023

Outstanding receipts

This should include any amounts received which have been recorded in the cashbook as being received in the period to 31 March 2023 but which appear on the bank statement after 31 March 2023.

Outstanding payments

This should include any amounts paid which have been recorded in the cashbook as being paid in the period to 31 March 2023 but which appear on the bank statement after 31 March 2023.