

Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2025/26 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 2026 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 2026 and a completed Certificate of Exemption is submitted no later than 30 June 2026 notifying the external auditor.

Ridlington Parish Council

certifies that during the financial year 2025/26, 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

Total annual gross income for the authority 2025/26: £8137

Total annual gross expenditure for the authority 2025/26: £9335

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 2022
- In relation to the preceding financial year (2024/25), 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notice under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 8 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ("the Act"), and has not withdrawn the notice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under section 28(1) of the Act for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, and the application has not been withdrawn nor has the court refused to make the declaration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 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 2026.

Signing this certificate confirms the authority will comply with the publication requirements.

Signed by the Responsible Financial Officer

Date

19/05/26

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

19/05/26

Signed by Chair

Date

19/05/26

as recorded in minute reference

20.26/33 c.

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 2026. Reminder letters for late submission will incur a charge of £40 + VAT.

Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26

Ridlington Parish Council

www.ridlingtonparishcouncil.org

During the financial year ended 31 March 2026, 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 2025/26 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.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly returned and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for	✓		
F. Cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for	✓		
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year	✓		
J. 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	✓		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2024/25, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2024/25 AGAR tick "not covered")	✓		
L. 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	✓		
M. 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 2025/26 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2024-25 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set)	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2024/25 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes)	✓		
O. The authority has complied with laws, regulations & proper practices relating to digital and data compliance	✓		
P. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) - The council met its responsibilities as a trustee	Yes	No	Not covered
			✓

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: **4/5/2026** Name of person who carried out the internal audit: **PORTIA RAWDEN**

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

P. Rawden

Date **4/5/2026**

*If the response is "no" please state the implications and action being taken to address any weaknesses 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 could explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).