

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018/19 Part 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 Part 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018/19

- Every smaller authority in England where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less **must** following the end of each financial year, complete Part 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices*, unless the authority:
 - does not meet the qualifying criteria for exemption; or
 - does not wish to certify itself as exempt
- Smaller authorities where the higher of 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**:
 - The **Certificate of Exemption**, page 3 and returns a copy of it to the external auditor **either** by email or by post (not both); and
 - The **Annual Governance and Accountability Return (Part 2)** which is made up of:
 - **Annual Internal Audit Report (page 4)** to be completed by the authority's internal auditor.
 - **Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement (page 5)** to be completed and approved by the authority.
 - **Section 2 – Accounting Statements (page 6)** to 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 a website before 1 July 2019.

Publication Requirements

Smaller authorities **must** publish various documents on a public 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 2018/19**, page 4
- **Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2018/19**, page 5
- **Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2018/19**, 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

Providing the authority certifies itself as exempt, and completes and publishes the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, there is **no** requirement for the authority to have a limited assurance review.

Any smaller authority may, however, request a limited assurance review. In these circumstances the authority should **not certify itself as exempt, and not complete the Certificate of Exemption** but complete Part 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018/19 and return it to the external auditor for review together with the supporting documentation requested by the external auditor.

The cost to the smaller authority for the review will be £200 +VAT.

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 bodies that may be smaller authorities refer to schedule 2 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Guidance notes on completing Part 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018/19, 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 2019. 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 authority **must** comply with Proper Practices in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this Annual Governance and Accountability Return 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 if possible prior to approving the annual governance statement and before approving the accounts.
- Make sure that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is complete (i.e. no empty highlighted boxes), and is properly signed and dated. Avoid making amendments to the completed annual return. Any amendments must be approved by the authority and properly initialled.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for completeness at the meeting at which it is signed off.
- **You should inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chairman, and provide relevant email addresses and telephone numbers.**
- It is recommended that the authority has numerical and narrative explanations for significant variances in the accounting statements on page 6, should a question be raised by a member of the public. There is guidance provided in the *Practitioners' Guide** that may assist.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2018) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2019).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, **must** set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights. From the commencement date for a single period of 30 consecutive working days, the approved accounts and accounting records can be inspected. Whatever period the RFO sets **must** include a common inspection period – during which the accounts and accounting records of all smaller authorities must be available for public inspection – of the first ten working days of July.
- The authority **must** publish 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 2019**.

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements		Yes	No
All sections	Have all highlighted boxes been completed?	✓	
	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?	✓	
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', is an explanation available should a question be raised by a local elector and/or an interested party?	N/A	
Section 2	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chairman of the approval meeting?	✓	
	Is an explanation of significant variations from last year to this year available, should a question be raised by a local elector and/or an interested party?	✓	
	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?	✓	
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? (<i>Local Councils only</i>)	N/A	

***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 2018/19 Part 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 2019, 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 2019 and a completed Certificate of Exemption is submitted notifying the external auditor.

ST MARTIN IN MENEAGE PARISH COUNCIL

certifies that during the financial year 2018/19, the higher of the authority's gross income for the year or gross annual expenditure, for the year did not exceed £25,000

Annual gross income for the authority 2018/19:

£ 9658

Annual gross expenditure for the authority 2018/19:

£ 6164

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 Part 3 to the external auditor to undertake a limited assurance review for which a fee of £200 +VAT will be payable.

By signing this **Certificate of Exemption** you are confirming that:

- The authority has been in existence since before 1st April 2015
- In relation to the preceding financial year (2017/18), 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 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 you are able to confirm that the above statements apply and that 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, Annual 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 all need to be fully completed and, along with a copy of this certificate, published on a public website before 1 July 2019. **By signing this certificate you are also confirming that you are aware of this requirement.**

Signed by the Responsible Financial Officer

Date

G. Hutton

13/05/2019

Signed by Chairman

Date

X W.P. Jurek

13/05/2019

Email

Telephone number

Lsc.mullion@btinternet.com

01326 280777

*Published web address

www.st-martin-in-meneageparishcouncil.btck.co.uk

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.

Annual Internal Audit Report 2018/19

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This authority's internal audit is being conducted properly and on the basis of an assessment of risk, and the internal audit has assessed whether the authority complies with relevant procedures and controls to be in place for the financial year ended 31 March 2019.

The internal audit for 2018/19 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 report. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and, alongside each internal audit conclusion, whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the goals of this authority.

Internal control objective	Agreed? Please choose one of the following		
	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. All 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 authorised 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 in a well-advanced budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored and reported where appropriate.	☒	☐	☐
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct assumptions, properly recorded and promptly used, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	☒	☐	☐
F. The cash payments were properly supported, expenditure liability cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	☒	☐	☐
G. Staff had no emoluments and allowances to which they were entitled in accordance with this authority's policies and HMRC and NI requirements were properly collected.	☒	☐	☐
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	☒	☐	☐
I. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	☒	☐	☐
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 declared itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2017/18, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. ("Not Covered" should only be ticked where the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2017/18 AGAR)	☒	☐	☐
L. During summer 2018 this authority has correctly provided the proper opportunity for the exercise of pre-emptive rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations	Not applicable ☒		
M. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes ☐	No ☐	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 of internal audit undertaken

5/12/2018

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

ANDREW ROBERT GREGG

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

A. Gregg

Date

5/12/2018

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 2018/19

We acknowledge as the members of:

ST. MARTIN-IN-MENEAGE 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 2019, that:

	Agreed			'Yes' means that this authority:
	Yes	No		
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓			prepare and approve accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓			make arrangements and appoint resources and controls to manage the public money and assets in the best interests of the community
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.	✓			develop and implement as the appropriate controls and procedures and Proper Practices, including so
4. 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 the year give all persons the right and opportunity to have their representations about the authority's accounts taken into account
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.	✓			identified and documented the risks and taken steps to manage and reduce them properly
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓			arranged for an independent party to carry out the internal audit and procedures, to give an objective view on whether, at all times, there is a need for the care and control of the authority's resources
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓			take appropriate action on all matters raised in internal and external audit
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✓			discussed and agreed with the auditors whether any such matters should be included in the accounts and, if so, how they should be included
9. (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 managed all of its responsibilities as a sole managing trustee for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.

*For any statement to which the response is 'no', an explanatory note is required.

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

13/05/2019

and recorded as minute reference:

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Signature: _____ per Clerk of Court _____
 appointed _____

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Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2018/19 for

S.T. MARTIN-IN-MENEAGE PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2018 £	31 March 2019 £	
1. Balances brought forward	6,79	1887	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.
2. + Precept, or Rates and Levies	7282	7547	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. + Total other income	2873	2411	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	2716	2208	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and employment expenses.
5. - Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. - Other payments	3051	3756	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. = Balances carried forward	1887	13581	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of bank and short term investments	1887	13581	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	262080	262080	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.
10. Total outstanding	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
11. Does Local Council (or) Disclosure note disclose Trusts or Charitable	Yes	No	The Council as a body corporate acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
		✓	N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

The figures for the year ended 31 March 2019 in the Accounting Statements in this Financial 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 representatively the financial position of the authority signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

Date

13/05/2019

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

13/05/2019

as recorded in minute reference:

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

X W.P. Jerr

Bank reconciliation – pro forma

This reconciliation should include all bank and building society accounts, including short term investment accounts. It must be included in the annual report column headed "Year ending 31 March 2019" in Section 2 of the AGAR – and will also agree to Box 7 where the accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis. Please complete the highlighted boxes, remembering that unpresented cheques should be entered as negative figures.

Name of smaller authority:

ST MARTIN IN MENEAGE PARISH COUNCIL

County area (local councils and parish meetings only):

Financial year ending 31 March 2019

Prepared by (Name and Role):

MRS G HATTON PARISH CLERK

Date:

31ST MARCH 2019

		£	£
Balance per bank statements as at 31/3/19:			
	account 1	10780448	13,381.0
	account 2		
	account 3		
	account 4		
[add more accounts if necessary]	account 5		
	account 6		
	account 7		
	account 8		
			13,381.0
Petty cash float (if applicable)			
			-
Less: any unpresented cheques as at 31/3/19 (enter these as negative numbers)			
	item 1		
	item 2		
	item 3		
	item 4		
[add more lines if necessary]	item 5		
	item 6		
	item 7		
	item 8		
			-
Add: any un-banked cash as at 31/3/19			
			-
Net balances as at 31/3/19 (Box 8)			13,381.0

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: **ST MARTIN IN MENEAGE PARISH COUNCIL**
County area (local councils and parish meetings only):

Insert figures from Section 2 of the AGAR in all Blue highlighted boxes

Next, please provide full explanations, including numerical values, for the following that will be flagged in the green boxes where relevant:

* variances of more than 15% between totals for individual boxes (except variances of less than £200);

* a breakdown of approved reserves on the next tab if the total reserves (Box 7) figure is more than twice the annual precept/rates & levies value (Box 2).

	2017/18 £	2018/19 £	Variance £	Variance %	Explanation Required?	Automatic responses trigger below based on figures input. DO NOT OVERWRITE THESE BOXES	Explanation from smaller authority (must include narrative and supporting figures)
1 Balances Brought Forward	6,079	9,887				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	7,282	7,247	-35	0.48%	NO		
3 Total Other Receipts	2,873	2,411	-462	16.08%	YES		REDUCTION IN INCOME FOR FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE REDUCED BY £396
4 Staff Costs	2,296	2,208	-88	3.83%	NO		
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	4,051	3,956	-95	2.35%	NO		
7 Balances Carried Forward	9,887	13,381			NO	VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	9,887	13,381				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	282,080	282,080	0	0.00%	NO		
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable