

Section 3 - External Auditor Report and Certificate 2020/21

In respect of

Pagham Parish Council

1 Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it does not provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/>.

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2021; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors

2 External auditor report 2020/21

Except for the matter reported below on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with the Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

When we originally received the 2021 Annual Governance and Accountability Return, we noted that the comparative figure in Box 7 was not that same as that submitted on the 2020 form. The difference was an increase in the payments amount of £1,306. Proper practices require at paragraph 2.9 that any adjustments made after the audit is closed should be identified by the prior year column being marked 'Restated' and an explanation provided to the auditor. This suggests the Council should have considered answering 'No' to Assertion 1 of the Annual Governance Statement and will need to carefully consider its assertion responses when completing the 2022 Return. The form has now been amended and resubmitted by the Council with the comparative year's Box 7 marked as 'Restated' together with an explanation that there had been an accounting error in relation to the recording of a VAT payment in the previous year. This suggests the Council should have considered answering 'No' to Assertion 1 of the Annual Governance Statement and will need to carefully consider its assertion responses when completing the 2022 Return.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

NONE

3 External auditor certificate 2020/21

We certify/ ~~do not certify~~* that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2021.

*We do not certify completion because:

External Auditor Name



External Auditor Signature

Moore

Date

23/08/2021