



Ms Suzi Bull
Upton By Chester Parish Council



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Email:
sba@pkf-l.com

Date:
27 September 2022

Our Ref:
CH0204

SAAA Ref:
SB08851

Upton By Chester Parish Council
Annual limited assurance review for the year ended 31 March 2022

Dear Ms Bull

We have commenced our review of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) for Upton By Chester Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2022 but cannot formally complete it. Please refer to our 'interim' external auditor report (Section 3 of the AGAR Form 3) which sets out the reasons we have not been able to complete the review. The 'interim' report is included for your attention as another attachment to the email containing this letter along with a copy of Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR. The smaller authority must consider the report and decide what, if any, action is required.

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234) set out what you must do at the conclusion of the review. In advance of the formal conclusion, we have provided the attached documents. The authority should use this 'interim' external auditor report and:

- Prepare a "Notice of audit" which details the rights of inspection, in line with the statutory requirements. We attach a pro forma notice you may use for this purpose (a Word version is available on request). It also states that the audit has not yet been completed.
- Publish the "Notice" along with the uncertified AGAR (Sections 1, 2 & 3) before 30 September, which must include publication on the smaller authority's website. (Please note that when the statute and regulations were amended in 2014 and 2015, they did not include a requirement for the length of time for which that the "Notice" must be published. The previous statute required 14 days; but it is now up to the authority to make this decision).
- Keep copies of the AGAR available for purchase by any person on payment of a reasonable sum.
- Ensure that Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the published AGAR remain available for public access for a period of not less than 5 years from the date of publication.

Fee

Our fee note for the limited assurance review will be issued when we certify completion. The standard review fee is in accordance with the fee scales set by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd.

Please note further charges may arise in addition to the standard fee if either:

- we have had to issue chaser letters and/or exercise our statutory powers due to a failure to provide an AGAR; or
- it was necessary for us to undertake additional work, for example due to challenge correspondence received.

Timetable for 2022/23

The 2021/22 reporting year is the last year of our current five-year contract with SAAA. If we are appointed as your external auditor for the subsequent five-year contract for years 2022/23 to 2026/27, the timetable will be broadly similar to that for 2021/22. If we are not appointed as your external auditor, the successor auditor will contact you directly to notify you of their timetable.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "PKF Littlejohn" followed by a flourish.

PKF Littlejohn LLP

Upton By Chester Parish Council

Notice of the audit and right to inspect the Annual Governance & Accountability Return

Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2022

Sections 20(2) and 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

	Notes
<p>1. The audit of accounts for Upton By Chester Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2022 has been carried out but cannot be completed for the reasons stated in the external auditor report. The accounts have been published.</p>	<p>This notice and Sections 1, 2 & 3 of the AGAR must be published by 30 September. This must include publication on the smaller authority's website. The smaller authority must decide how long to publish the Notice for; the AGAR and external auditor report must be publicly available for 5 years.</p>
<p>2. The Annual Governance & Accountability Return is available for inspection by any local government elector of the area of Upton By Chester Parish Council on application to:</p> <p>(a) _____ _____ _____ _____</p> <p>(b) _____ _____ _____</p>	
<p>3. Copies will be provided to any person on payment of £_____ (c) for each copy of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return.</p>	<p>(c) Insert a reasonable sum for copying costs</p>
<p>Announcement made by: (d) _____</p>	<p>(d) Insert the name and position of person placing the notice</p>
<p>Date of announcement: (e) _____</p>	<p>(e) Insert the date of placing of the notice</p>