

Section 3 - External Auditor Report and Certificate 2024/25

In respect of

Lurgashall Parish Council

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

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 2025; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors

2 External auditor limited assurance opinion 2024/25

Except for the matters 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.

A brief review of the council's website has identified that the council does not appear to have fully met the requirement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, in relation to Regulation 16, Notice of Conclusion for 2023/24. The heading is there but crossed through with nothing linked document. As notices relating to previous years remain available, this would suggest 2023/24 has not been published. The council look to rectify this as soon as practically possible.

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

We note that the contact email address on the council's website does not appear to belong to the council. Paragraph 1.26 of JPAG Practitioners' Guide 2024 states every authority should have an email account that belongs to the council and to which the council has access. An email account that is considered to belong to the council should have an authority owned domain, for example clerk@abcparishcouncil.gov.uk or clerk@abcparishcouncil.org.uk. From 1 April 2025 this became a mandatory requirement, and the council will need to consider whether it is fully compliant.

Last year the External Audit Report noted that the Notice of Public Rights was provided by the Council with a period of 29 working days. Therefore, we expected a 'No' response to both Assertion 4 of Section 1 and Control Objective M on the Annual Internal Audit Report. The council has however notified us that the dating error on document provided to us had been noted and corrected on the physical Parish Council noticeboard. On review of the website notice board the 2023/24 notice still contains the same error and therefore we cannot confirm whether the notice was appropriately corrected and published.

3 External auditor certificate 2024/25

We 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 2025.

External Auditor Name

External Auditor Signature

Date



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MOORE".

15/07/2025