

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/22 Form 2PM

ONLY to be completed on behalf of PARISH MEETINGS OF PARISHES NOT HAVING PARISH COUNCILS, 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 for Parish Meetings on completing Form 2PM of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/22 that have financial transactions

1. Every Parish Meeting in England where the higher of all gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less **must**, following the end of each financial year, complete Form 2PM of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices*, unless the Parish Meeting:
 - a) does not meet the qualifying criteria for exemption; or
 - b) does not wish to certify itself as exempt
2. Parish Meetings where the higher of all 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** that the Parish Meeting **completes**:
 - a) The **Certificate of Exemption**, page 3 and returns a copy of it to the external auditor **either** by email or by post (not both) **no later than 30 June 2022**. Failure to do so will result in reminder letter(s) for which the Parish Meeting will be charged £40 +VAT for each letter; and
 - b) The **Annual Governance and Accountability Return (Form 2PM)** which is made up of:
 - **Annual Internal Audit Report (page 4)** **must** be completed by the Parish Meeting's internal auditor.
 - **Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement (page 5)** **must** be completed and approved by the Parish Meeting.
 - **Section 2 – Accounting Statements (page 6)** **must** be completed and approved by the Parish Meeting.

NOTE: Parish Meetings certifying themselves as exempt SHOULD NOT send the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor.
3. The Parish Meeting **must** approve Section 1 Annual Governance Statement before approving Section 2 Accounting Statements and both **must** be approved and published on a suitable website or be displayed in the local area **before 1 July 2022**.

Publication Requirements

Parish Meetings **must** publish on a suitable website or display in the local area various documents as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, and the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015. Parish Meetings without a website must display the documents in the local area for 14 days. These include:

- **Certificate of Exemption**, page 3
- **Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2021/22**, page 5
- **Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/22**, page 6
- 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

Any Parish Meeting may request a limited assurance review. If so, the Parish Meeting should not certify itself as exempt or complete the Certificate of Exemption. Instead it should complete Form 3PM of the AGAR 2021/22 and return it to the external auditor together with the supporting documentation requested by the external auditor. The cost to the Parish Meeting for the review will be **£200 +VAT**.

Provided that the Parish Meeting certifies itself as exempt, and completes and publishes the documents listed under 'Publication Requirements', there is **no** requirement for the Parish Meeting to have a review.

If it decides to certify itself as exempt, the Parish Meeting must complete and return the Certificate of Exemption on Page 3 to the external auditor to confirm that it has certified itself exempt.

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.

Guidance notes for Parish Meetings on completing **Form 2PM** of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2021/22, Sections 1 and 2

- A Parish Meeting that wishes to declare itself exempt from the requirement for a limited assurance review must do so at a meeting held between **1 April and 30 June 2022**. It should not submit its AGAR to the external auditor.
- The Certificate of Exemption should be returned to the external auditor **no later than 30 June 2022**. Reminder letters will incur a charge of £40 +VAT.
- The Parish Meeting **must** comply with *Proper Practices* in completing Sections 1 and 2 of its AGAR 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 Parish Meeting **should** receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report before approving the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts.
- The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) must be approved on the same day or before the accounts (Section 2) and evidenced by the agenda or minute references.
- The Chairman must certify the accounts (Section 2) before they are presented to the authority for approval. The authority must in this order; consider, approve and sign the accounts.
- The Chairman is required to commence the public rights period as soon as practical after the date of the AGAR approval.
- Make sure that the AGAR is complete (no highlighted boxes left empty), and is properly signed and dated. Avoid making amendments to the completed annual return. Any amendments must be approved by the Parish Meeting and properly initialled.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the AGAR for completeness at the meeting at which it is signed off.
- **You must inform your external auditor about any change of Chairman, and provide a relevant email address and telephone number.**
- The Parish Meeting must publish numerical and narrative explanations for significant variances in the accounting statements on **page 6**. Guidance is provided in the *Practitioners' Guide** which may assist.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2021) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2022).
- The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Meeting, **must** set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights of 30 consecutive working days which **must** include the first ten working days of July.
- The Parish Meeting **must** publish on a suitable website or publicly display in the local area 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 2022.

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 for publication?		
Section 2	Has the Parish Meeting's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chairman of the approval meeting?		
	Has an explanation of significant variations been published where required?		
	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?		

**Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices*, can be downloaded from www.nalc.gov.uk

Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2021/22 Form 2PM

To be completed by all Parish Meetings that neither received gross income nor incurred gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 in the year of account ended 31 March 2022, 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 Parish Meeting has certified itself as exempt at a Parish Meeting held between **1 April and 30 June 2022** and a completed Certificate of Exemption is submitted no later than **30 June 2022** notifying the external auditor.

ENTER NAME OF PARISH MEETING
Cliburn Parish Meeting

certifies that during the financial year 2021/22, the higher of the Parish Meeting'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 Parish Meeting 2021/22: £2,858 PER AMOUNT £00,000

Total annual gross expenditure for the Parish Meeting 2021/22: £2,831 PER AMOUNT £00,000

There are certain circumstances in which an Parish Meeting will be **unable to certify itself as exempt**, so that a limited assurance review will still be required. If a Parish Meeting 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 3PM 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:

- This parish has no Parish Council
- The authority was in existence on 1st April 2018
- In relation to the preceding financial year (2020/21), the external auditor **has not**:
 - issued a public interest report in respect of the Parish Meeting or any entity connected with it
 - made a statutory recommendation to the Parish Meeting
 - issued an advisory notice under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 8 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ("the Act"), and 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 Parish Meeting 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, and Annual Accounting Statements still need to be fully completed and, along with a copy of this certificate and notice of the period for the exercise of public rights, published on a suitable website or be publicly displayed in the local area before 1 July 2022. **By signing this certificate you are also confirming that you are aware of this requirement.**

Signed by Chairman

A J Chapelton

Date

18/05/2022

I confirm that this Certificate of Exemption was approved by this Parish Meeting on this date:

18/05/2022

as recorded in minute reference:

5/22/B

MINUTE REFERENCE

Email

cliburnparishmeeting@outlook.com ADDRESS

Telephone number

01931 714516 NUMBER

Place where this Certificate of Exemption is published or displayed (e.g. Parish Notice Board, Newsletter, Village website, etc.)

<https://www.cliburnparish.org/parish-meetings.html> PUBLISHED OR DISPLAYED

ONLY a copy of 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 2022. Reminder letters incur a charge of £40 +VAT.

Form 2PM Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/22 for

ENTER NAME OF PARISH MEETING
Cliburn Parish Meeting

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2022 £	
1. Balances brought forward	1,730	2,137	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	2,354	2,607	Total amount of precept received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	484	251	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	514	926	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the Parish Meeting's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	1,918	1,905	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	2,137	2,164	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	2,137	2,164	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	0	0	"The value of all the property the Parish Meeting owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March."
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2022 the Accounting Statements in this Annual 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 present fairly the financial position of this Parish Meeting.

Signed by the Chairman before being presented to the Parish Meeting for approval

A J Chapelton

Date

10/05/2022

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

18/05/2022

as recorded in minute reference:

5/22/D

MINUTE REFERENCE

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

A J Chapelton