Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/23 Form 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 Form 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/23

- 1. Every smaller authority in England where the higher of gross income **or** gross expenditure was £25,000 or less **must**, after the end of each financial year, complete Form 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in a coordance with *Proper Practices*, unless the authority:
 - a) does not meet the qua ifying criteria for exemption; or
 - b) does not wish to certify itself as exempt
- 2. Smaller authorities 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 autitor for a limited assurance review provided the authority 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 2023. Failure to do so will result in reminder letter(s) for which the Authority will be charged £40 +VAT for each letter; and
 - b) The Annual Governar ce and Accountability Return (Form 2) which is made up of:
 - Annual Internal Audit Report (page 4) must be completed by the authority's internal auditor.
 - Section 1 Annual Governance Statement (page 5) must be completed and approved by the authority.
 - Section 2 Accounting Statements (page 6) must be completed and approved by the authority.

NOTE: Authorities certi ying themselves as exempt SHOULD NOT send the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor.

3. The authority **must** approve Section 1 Annual Governance Statement before approving Section 2 Accounting Statements and both **must** be approved and published on the authority website/webpage **before 1 July 2023.**

Publication Requirements

Smaller authorities **must** put lish various documents on a publicly available 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 2022/23, page 4
- Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2022/23, page 5
- Section 2 Accounting Statements 2022/23, 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

Any smaller authority may request a limited assurance review. If so, the authority should not certify itself as exempt or complete the Certificate of Exemption. Instead it should complete Form 3 of the AGAR 2022/23 and return it to the external auditor together with the supporting documentation requested by the external auditor. The cost to the authority for the review will be £210 +VAT.

Provided that the authority cortifies itself as exempt, and completes and publishes the documents listed under 'Publication Requirem ants', there is no requirement for the authority to have a review.

The Annual Governance and Account ability Return constitutes the annual return referred to in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Throughout, the words 'external audit or' have the same meaning as the words 'local auditor' in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

*for a complete list of bodies that mage be smaller authorities refer to schedule 2 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Guidance notes on completing Form 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2022/23, 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 2023. 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 Certificate of Exemption must be returned to the external auditor no later than 30 June 2023. Reminder letters will incur a charge of £40 +VAT for each letter.
- The authority must comply with Proper Practices in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this 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 authority **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 Accounting Statements (Section 2) and evidenced by the agenda or minute references
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) must certify the accounts (Section 2) before they are presented to the authority for approva. The authority must in this order; consider, approve and sign the accounts.
- The RFO is required to cor mence 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. Any amendments must be approved by the authority 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 Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chairman, and provide relevant authority owned generic email addresses and telephone numbers.
- The authority must publish numerical and narrative explanations for significant variances in the accounting statements on **page 6**. Gui dance is provided in the *Practitioners' Guide** which may assist.
- Make sure that the accoun ing statements add up and the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2022) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2023).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, **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 authority **must** publish, on the authority website/webpage, 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 2023.**

Completion checklist – 'No'		inswers mean you may not have met requirements	Yes	No
All sections	Have all h	ighlighted boxes have been completed?	V	
	Have the	dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights been published?	~	
Internal Audit Report	Haveallhi	hlighted boxes been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?	V	
Section 1	For any st	tement to which the response is 'no', is an explanation available for publication?	V	
Section 2		esponsible Financial Officer signed the accounting statements before on to the authority for approval?		
		uthority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by ure of the Chairman of the approval meeting?		
	Has an ex	planation of significant variations been published where required?		
	Has the b	ank reconciliation as at 31 March 2023 been reconciled to Box 8?	V	
		anation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 available, should be raised by a local elector and/or an interested party?	V	
Sections 1 and 2		s – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a ging trustee? (Local Councils only)		V

*Governance and Accountal ility for Smaller Authorities in England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices, can le downloaded from www.nalc.gov.uk or from www.ada.org.uk

Certificate of Exemption - AGAR 2022/23 Form 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 2023, 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 2023 and a completed Certificate of Exemption is submitted no later than **30 June 2023** notifying the external auditor.

WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

certifies that during the financ al year 2022/23, the higher of the authority'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 authority 2022/23: £5,101

Total annual gross expenditure for the authority 2022/23: £5,120

There are certain circumstance as in which an authority will be unable to certify itself as exempt, so that a limited assurance review will still be equired. If an authority is unable to confirm the statements below then it cannot certify itself as exempt, so that a limited assurance review for which a fee of £210 +VAT will be payable.

By signing this Certificate of Exemption you are confirming that:

- · The authority was in existence on 1st April 2019
- In relation to the preceding financial year (2021/22), 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 Local 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 und ar section 28(1) of the Act for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, and the application has r ot 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 the above statements apply and 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, Accounting Statements, an analysis of variances and the bank recor ciliation plus the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 including the period for the exercise of public rights still need to be fully completed and, along with a copy of this certificate, published on the authority website/webpage* before 1 July 2023. Signing this certificate confirms the authority will comply with the publication requirements.

Signed by the Responsible Finar cial Officer Date I confirm that this Certificate of Exemption was approved by this 13-06-23 authority on this date: Signed by Chairman as recorded in minute reference: 13/06/2023 13106/23 Generic email address of Authority Telephone number parishclerk@withington-gloucestershire.co.uk 01451 860960 *Published web address www.withington-gloucestershire.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, but no later than 30 June 2023. Reminder let ers for late submission will incur a charge of £40 + VAT.

Annual Internal Audit Report 2022/23

WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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During the financial year ended 31 March 2023, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and ob ained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2022/23 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 table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the courtrol objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective		Yes	No*	Not covered**
	ve been properly kept throughout the financial year.			
expenditure was approved and VA	ancial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all T was appropriately accounted for.	/		
of arrangements to manage these	ant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy	1		
D. The precept or rates requirement the budget was regularly monitore	esulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against d; and reserves were appropriate.	1		
E. Expected income was fully receive banked; and VAT was appropriate	d, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly y accounted for.	/		
 F. Petty cash payments were proper approved and VAT appropriately a 	/ supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was counted for.			/
G. Salaries to employees and allowal approvals, and PAYE and NI requi	ces to members were paid in accordance with this authority's ements were properly applied.	/		
H. Asset and investments registers w	ere complete and accurate and properly maintained.			
	ns were properly carried out during the year.	1/		
(receipts and payments or income	uring the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an precords and where appropriate debtors and creditors were	/		
K. If the authority certified itself as ex exemption criteria and correctly de review of its 2021/22 AGAR tick "n	empt from a limited assurance review in 2021/22, it met the clared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance of covered")	1		
L. The authority published the require the internal audit in accordance wi	d information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of h the relevant legislation.	/		
public rights as required by the Ac	the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of ounts and Audit Regulations (during the 2022-23 AGAR period, 2021-22 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or ning the dates set).	/		
N. The authority has complied with th (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Note	publication requirements for 2021/22 AGAR s).	/		
O. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) -	The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	Not applicable
				Annual Control of the

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed). Date(s) internal audit undertaken

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

MAY 2023

manton

KATE LAWTON

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

Date

31/5/2023

*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 2022/23

We acknowledge as the me nbers of:

WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

our responsibility for ensurir g 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 2023, that:

	Agr	eed		
	Yes	No	'Yes' m	eans that this authority:
We have put in place arrangement: for effective financia management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	·			ed its accounting statements in accordance e Accounts and Audit Regulations.
We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraucand corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.			made p for safe its char	oroper arrangements and accepted responsibility rguarding the public money and resources in ge.
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual (r 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.	V		has onl complie	ly done what it has the legal power to do and has ed with Proper Practices in doing so.
We provided proper opportunity duing the year for the exercise of electors' rights in ac ordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	V	Participation	during t	the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to and ask questions about this authority's accounts.
5. We carried out an assessment of the authority and took appropriate steps risks, including the introduction of ir external insurance cover where required.			conside faces a	ered and documented the financial and other risks it not dealt with them properly.
We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of ne accounting records and control systems.	~		controls	ed for a competent person, independent of the financial is and procedures, to give an objective view on whether controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.
We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and externational audit.		V	m 1	ded to matters brought to its attention by internal and
8. We considered whether any litigatic h, liabilities or commitments, events or transaction s, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriat s, have included then in the accounting statements.	,		disclosed everything it should have about its business active during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.	
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the so a managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/asset s, including financial reporting and, if required, i dependent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A	has met all of its responsibilities where as a body corporate it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

*For any statement to which the response is 'no', an explanation must be published

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:	Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:
13/06/2023	
and recorded as minute reference:	Chairman
01-13/06/2023	Clerk 8A Highes

Information required by the Transparency Code (not part of the Annual Governance Statement)

The authority website/webpage is up to date and the information required by the Transparency Code has been published.

Yes | No been published.

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Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2022/23 for

WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

	Year e	ending	Notes and guidance		
	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2023 £	Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.		
Balances brought forward	5,903	5,312	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	4,170	4,500	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.		
3. (+) Total other receipts	769	601	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	2,502	2,409	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 authority's borrowings (if any).		
6. (-) All other payments	3,028	2,712	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash- book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).		
7. (=) Balances carried forward	5,312	5,293	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	4,859	5,236	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 and assets	44,946	44,946	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 borrowings			The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).		
For Local Councils Only	Yes	No N/A			
11a. Disclosure note re Trust fur (including charitable)	nd is	~	The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.		
11b. Disclosure note re Trust fur (including charitable)	nc is		The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.		

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2023 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Govern ance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expend ture basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guic e to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financ al Officer before being presented to the authority for a pproval

8A Highes

Date

13/05/2023

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

13/06/2023

as recorded in minute reference:

01-13/06/2023

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

Smaller authority nan e	:Withington Parish Council	
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NC TICE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS AND PUBLICATION OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (EXEMPT AUTHORITY)

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 Sections 25, 26 and 27
The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

The	Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/	234)
	NOTICE	NOTES
2. Each year the sma Accountability Return (a It will not be reviewed b certified itself as exemp Any person interested I the accounting records deeds, contracts, bills, those records must be a	ller authority prepares an Annual Governance and (GAR). The AGAR has been published with this notice. If the appointed auditor, since the smaller authority has the from the appointed auditor's review. If the appointed auditor's review as the right to inspect and make copies of the AGAR, for the financial year to which it relates and all books, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to hade available for inspection by any person interested. March 2023, these documents will be available on plication to:	(a) Insert date of placing of the notice which must be not less than 1 day before the date in (c) below
3EN, E-Mail Parishci	Nithington Parish Clerk. 6 Dutton Leys Northleach GL54 rk@withington-gloucestershire.co.uk Friday 16th June 2023	(b) Insert name, position and address/telephone number/ email address, as appropriate, of the Clerk or other person to which any person may apply to inspect the accounts
	Thursday 27 th July 2023 tors and their representatives also have:	(c) Insert date, which must be at least 1 day after the date of announcement in (a) above and at least 30 working days before the date appointed in (d) below
The right to mak the appointed at the court for a de	to question the appointed auditor about the accounting an objection which concerns a matter in respect of which ditor could either make a public interest report or apply to claration that an item of account is unlawful. Written notice nust first be given to the auditor and a copy sent to the	(d) The inspection period between (c) and (d) must be 30 working days inclusive and must include the first 10 working days of July.
The appointed audito this purpose betweer	can be contacted at the address in paragraph 4 below for the above dates only.	
auditor if questions	's AGAR is only subject to review by the appointed or objections raised under the Local Audit and lead to the involvement of the auditor. The appointed	
PKF Littlejohn LLP 15 Westferry Circus Canary Wharf London E14 4HD (sba@pkf-l.com)	Ref: SBA Team)	
5. This announcement is Council	made by (e) S A Hughes Clerk to Withington Parish	(e) Insert name and position of person placing the notice – this person must be the responsible financial officer for the smaller authority

Annual Internal Auc it Report for Withington Parish Council For the year to 31 March 2023

Items marked 'Not covered' on the Annual Internal Audit Report 2022/23 are explained as follows:

F. There is no petty cash.

Katherine J Lawton ACA, BA

31 May 2023

Explanation of variances - pro forma

Name of smaller authority: WITHINGTON 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

- 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).

	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	Variance £	Variance %		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	5,903	5,312				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	4,170	4,500	330	7.91%	NO	Increase in precept
3 Total Other Receipts	769	601	-168	100.00%	YES	Additional income in 2021-22 from ESC lottery funds £269, and a Harper Films donation of £500. Additional Income 2022-23 VAT debtor £601 of which £453 brought forward
4 Staff Costs	2,502	2,409	-93	3.72%	NO	
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO	
6 All Other Payments	3,028	2,711	-317	10.47%	NO	External Audit costs of £480 in 2021-22, not incurred 2022-23
7 Balances Carried Forward	5,312	5,293			NO	VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments VAT Debtor at Year End	4,859 - 4 53	5,236 -57				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED Differences between Box 7 and Box 8 due to VAT debtor.
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments ar	nd 44,946	44,946	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

Bank reconciliation - pro forma

This reconciliation should include a label bank and building society accounts, including short term investment accounts. It must as column headed "Year ending 31 M arch 2020" in Section 2 of the AGAR – and will also agree to Box 7 where the accounts are and payments basis. Please complete the highlighted boxes, remembering that unpresented cheques should be entered as ne

Name of smaller authority:	WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL	
County area (local councils and parish	meetings only):	
Financial year ending 31 Marc h 2022	2	
Prepared by (Name and Role):	SUSAN HUGHES	
Date:	22/05/2023	
Balance per bank statements as at 3	£ 31/3/22:	£
	ACCOUNT 5,572.19	
[add more accounts if neces ary]		
		5,572.19
Petty cash float (if applicable)		-
Less: any unpresented cheques as at 3	31/3/22 (enter these as negative numbers)	
CHEQUE	574 (36.00) 601 (36.00) 607 (36.00)	
[add more lines if necessa y]	613 (36.00) 617 (35.28) 622 (22.56) 624 (151.20) 626 (477.25) 627 (95.45) 628 (11.28)	
Add: any un-banked cash as at 31/3/20		(937.02)
The strip an bankou cash as at \$1/5/20		
Net balances as at 31/3/20 (Bc x 8)		4,635.17