

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26 Form 3

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

Explanation to 'No' Response for Q4.

From the 2024/25 External Audit:

The Accounts and Audit Regulations require that the Authority publishes Sections 1 and 2, a declaration that the status of the statement of accounts is 'unaudited' and a statement that sets out details of how public rights can be exercised on a free to access website (Item 1.28). This requirement has not been met for the 2024/25 accounts. In future, the Council needs to ensure that it can always meet its statutory obligations in relation to publishing accounts and advertising public rights. It should also mark the assertion regarding providing proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights as "No" when completing the 2025/26 Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

Parish Clerk response:

The document with the Exercise Of Public Rights information required, which included the unaudited AGAR and the internal audit was uploaded to our website at the correct time for the correct period.

I noticed an error on the postcode for the contact details. It was left on the website with the error for a week but I then decided to get that page updated. I uploaded the revised page which took the place of the existing document.

Unfortunately I just posted that document which was just the single sheet with the correct post code with none of the supporting information. This was picked up by the external auditor and I was advised that we should state 'no' for Q4.