

From: PKF Littlejohn <sba@pkf-littlejohn.co.uk>
Sent: 24 March 2021 13:11
To: Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council
Subject: NO0442 Swaffham Town Council - 2020/21 AGAR external auditor instructions

NO0442 Swaffham Town Council – 2020/21 AGAR external auditor instructions

Dear Clerk/RFO

We are appointed by [Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd](#) (SAAA) as the external auditor of your smaller authority for the 5 financial years from 2017/18 to 2021/22. We are writing to you as the 2020/21 financial year ends to provide instructions to enable your smaller authority to comply with the relevant statute and Regulations regarding accounts and audit.

If you are clerk for multiple smaller authorities please accept our apologies if you receive this email more than once, these instruction emails are sent to every smaller authority for whom we act. Please note, however, that the emails are being sent out in batches over the course of this week, so if you are clerk for multiple authorities and have received this email only once, you should receive further emails over the course of the next few days.

Contact details

If you are aware that you are not going to be the main point of contact for this smaller authority going forwards, please could we ask that you provide us with the new contact email address as soon as possible to prevent unnecessary chasing and ensure all correspondence reaches the right person.

Completion of documentation for submission

Access to the Annual Governance and Accountability Returns (AGARs) and instructions is provided through email links. All the relevant information and guidance is available on [this page](#) of our website. Please click on the links provided to refer to our instructions and to obtain the relevant forms and information to be provided to us with the AGAR.

Please note that a separate email will be sent this week to any smaller authorities with income and expenditure below £200k who have been selected as part of the 5% sample subject to intermediate review. **All smaller authorities with income or expenditure greater than £200k are automatically subject to an intermediate review** and will not receive an additional email. In this case, you must submit the information required for an intermediate review.

Submission deadline

Please note that our default submission deadline for the receipt of the approved AGAR and supporting documentation or the Certificate of Exemption (as appropriate) is **Friday 2 July 2021**. Non-submission by this date will lead to chargeable chaser letters being issued (£40 plus VAT for all financially active smaller authorities). If you are not able to meet this submission deadline please contact us to arrange an alternative date (subject to below) to avoid incurring the administrative charges. **It is important to note, however, that:**

- **no submission deadlines will be granted beyond 15 September;**
- **it will only be possible to extend submission deadlines by a maximum of 4 weeks at a time providing sufficient justification explaining the need for the extension is given;**
- **a statutory recommendation will be issued to all financially active non-responding authorities that fail to submit their documents by 15 September. Statutory recommendations for non-response are**

charged at the standard fee rate depending on the authority's expenditure banding and hence give rise to a minimum additional fee of £200 plus VAT.

IMPORTANT: If a financially active smaller authority is issued with a statutory recommendation (and/or a public interest report) for 2020/21 it will not be able to claim exemption from a limited assurance review for 2021/22, regardless of whether it meets all other criteria.

Contact details

If you are aware that you are not going to be the main point of contact for this smaller authority going forwards, please could we ask that you provide us with the new contact email address as soon as possible to prevent unnecessary chasing and ensure all correspondence reaches the right person.

Acknowledgement of receipt of information

Your smaller authority will receive an automated email notifying you when either the AGAR or Exemption Certificate, as appropriate, has been logged onto the authority's record on our database.

Important: If you have a query **please do not respond to this email address**. All correspondence and submitted documentation should be sent to sba@pkf-l.com.

Kind regards

SBA Team

For and on behalf of PKF Littlejohn LLP

T +44 (0) 20 7516 2200

sba@pkf-l.com

