



FAQ: AGAR & Your Right to Inspect the Account

What is the AGAR?

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) is a small set of documents that every parish council must complete each year. It shows how we manage public money and confirms that we follow proper financial and governance rules.

Why does the council publish the AGAR?

We publish it so residents can see how their precept is used, how decisions are made, and how we keep our finances safe and well-managed. It's part of our legal duty to be open and accountable.

What documents are included in the AGAR?

The AGAR usually includes:

Annual Governance Statement – confirms we've followed proper procedures

Accounting Statements – a simple summary of our income, spending, and balances

Internal Audit Report – an independent check of our financial controls

Notice of Public Rights – tells you when and how you can inspect the accounts

Can I look at the detailed accounts?

Yes. Every year there is a set period — usually 30 working days — when any resident can ask to inspect the council's financial records.

What can I inspect?

You can look at:

Receipts and payments

Invoices and bills

Bank statements

Contracts and financial records Anything that supports the figures in the published accounts.

How do I ask to inspect the accounts?

During the inspection period, you can contact the Clerk and request an appointment. We'll arrange a time for you to view the documents, either in person or by providing copies.

Do I need to give a reason for looking at the accounts?

No. Anyone who lives in the parish has the right to inspect the financial records — no explanation needed.



Can I ask questions about the accounts?

Yes. You can ask the council questions about the financial information. If something doesn't make sense, we're happy to explain it.

What happens after the AGAR is published?

Once the internal auditor has completed their review, we publish the final audited documents on our website so residents can see the confirmed year-end position.