

Section 3 – External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2025/26

In respect of

Crudwell Parish Council-WI0079

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/>

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2026; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2025/26

Except for the matters reported below, on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review.:

- Section 2, Box 6 for the prior year is incorrect due to a typographical error and should read £19,434.
- Section 2 Box 11 of the AGAR has not been completed accurately. The smaller authority has confirmed that it is not a sole managing trustee, and the responses should be 'yes'.

Section 1, Assertion 2 has been incorrectly completed. The Internal Auditor reported weaknesses in the authority's internal control arrangements, noting that invoices no longer evidenced member reviews and approval of payments and that sequential invoice numbering had not been maintained and that rental income demands had not been issued. This is consistent with the Internal Auditor's response to Internal Control Objective E.

Section 1, Assertions 1 & 3 has been incorrectly completed. There is no evidence that bank reconciliations were reviewed and signed by an appropriately appointed councillor in accordance with Financial Regulation 2.6 and small irregularities in HMRC deductions were noted. This is consistent with the Internal Auditor's response to Internal Control Objective G.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

None.

3 External auditor certificate 2025/26

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2026.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

Date

29/09/2026