



Annual Report on grants and returns 2015/16

Kettering Borough Council

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Headlines

Introduction and background

This report summarises the results of work we have carried out on the Council's 2015/16 grant claims and returns.

This includes the work we have completed under the Public Sector Audit Appointment certification arrangements, as well as the work we have completed on other grants/returns under separate engagement terms. The work completed in 2015/16 is:

- Under the Public Sector Audit Appointments arrangements we certified one claim, the Council's 2015/16 Housing Benefit Subsidy claim. This had a Total Subsidy Claimed value of £24,583,923.
- Under separate assurance engagements we certified one return, the Housing Pooling Return. The Total Housing Capital Receipts subject to Pooling for 2015/16 was £822,060 (Cell F601PO – original return).

Certification and assurance results (Pages 4)

Our certification work on Housing Subsidy Benefit claim included:

- agreeing standard rates, such as for allowances and benefit incomes, to the DWP Circular communicating the value of each rate for the year;
- sample testing of benefit claims to confirm that the entitlement had been correctly calculated and was supported by appropriate evidence;
- undertaking an analytical review of the claim form considering year-on-year variances and key ratios;
- confirming that the subsidy claim had been prepared using the correct benefits system version; and
- completing testing in relation to modified schemes payments, uncashed cheques and verifying the accurate completion of the claim form.

Following the completion of our work, the claim was unqualified.

Our work on the Housing Pooling Return resulted in an unqualified report, with no adjustments necessary as a result of our certification work this year.

Fees (Page 5)

Our fee for certifying the Council's 2015/16 Housing Benefit Subsidy grant was £10,904, which is in line with the indicative fee set by PSAA.

Our fee for the 2015/16 Housing Pooling Return, which was subject to agreement directly with the Council, was £2,890.

Summary of reporting and certification work outcomes




Overall, we carried out work on two grants and returns:

- One was unqualified with no amendment;
- One was unqualified but required only minor adjustment to the original return; and

This table summarises the key observations for both returns.

Detailed below is a summary of the reporting outcomes from our work on the Council’s 2015/16 grants and returns, showing where either audit amendments were made as a result of our work or where we had to qualify our audit certificate or assurance report.

A qualification would mean that issues were identified concerning the Council’s compliance with a scheme’s requirements that could not be resolved through adjustment. In such circumstances, it is likely that the relevant grant paying body will require further information from the Council to satisfy itself that the full amounts of grant claimed are appropriate.

	Comments below	Qualified	Significant adjustment	Minor adjustment	Unqualified
PSAA regime					
— Housing Benefit Subsidy	1				
Other assurance engagements					
— Housing Pooling Return	2				
		-	-	1	2

Ref	Summary observations	Amendment
1	<p>Housing Benefit Subsidy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The figure for uncashed payments (£222) was omitted from the original claim form (which totalled £24.6m). This was corrected in the final version. No other errors were identified within the return and therefore no further amendments or qualifications were required. — There were no issues brought forward from the prior year requiring further testing. 	-
2	<p>Housing Pooling Return</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — There were no errors identified within the return and therefore no amendments or qualifications were required. — This is consistent with prior year, where no amendments or errors were identified. 	-

Fees

Our fees for the Housing Benefit Subsidy claim are set by Public Sector Audit Appointments.

Our fees for other assurance engagements on grants/returns are agreed directly with the Council.

The overall fees we charged for carrying out all our work on grants/returns in 2015/16 was £13,794.

Public Sector Audit Appointments certification arrangements

Public Sector Audit Appointments set an indicative fee for our work on the Council's Housing Benefit Subsidy claim in 2015/16 of £10,904. Our actual fee was the same as the indicative fee, and this compares to the 2014/15 fee for this claim of £15,250.

Grants subject to other assurance engagements

The fees for our assurance work on other grants/returns are agreed directly with the Council. Our fee for the 2015/16 Housing Pooling Return was £2,890, which compares to the 2014/15 fee of £1,490.

Breakdown of fees for grants and returns work

Breakdown of fee by grant/return		
	2015/16 (£)	2014/15 (£)
Housing Benefit Subsidy claim	10,904	15,250
Housing Pooling Return	2,890	1,490
Total fee	13,794	16,740



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