



Annual Report on grants and returns 2016/17

Telford & Wrekin Council

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Introduction and background

This report summarises the results of work we have carried out on the Council's 2016/17 grant claims and returns.

This includes the work we have completed under the Public Sector Audit Appointment (PSAA) certification arrangements, as well as the work we have completed on other grants/returns under separate engagement terms. The work completed in 2016/17 is:

- Under the Public Sector Audit Appointments arrangements we certified one claim, the Council's 2016/17 Housing Benefit Subsidy return. This had a value of £69.5m total subsidy claimed.
- Under a separate engagement we completed 'Agreed Upon Procedures' (AUP) for the Teachers' Pensions Return. Total teachers' pension contributions (employees and employers) collected by the Council were £10.1m contributions paid.

Certification and assurance results (Page 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 (last year's claim was also unqualified).

Our work on the Teachers' Pensions Return AUP engagement followed the instructions issued by the Teachers' Pensions agency (TP) and included:

- completing a comparison of the actual employees' and employer's contributions included in the return with the expected value using the contributory salary reported in the return for each tier (ie the teachers' pensions scheme has six tiers related to salary with a different contribution rate for each);
- sample testing confirming that contributory salaries have been extracted correctly from payroll records, teachers' contributions have been deducted at the appropriate rate, employer's contributions have been calculated correctly and where relevant that 'other' contributions had been dealt with correctly; and
- completing testing in relation to any refunds of contributions made to teachers.

Our work on the Teachers' Pension Contributions return resulted in no issues being reported.

Recommendations

We have not made any recommendations to the Council from our work this year or last year.

Fees (Page 5)



Our fee for certifying the Council's 2016/17 Housing Benefit Subsidy grant was £7,155 plus VAT, which is in line with the indicative fee set by PSAA.

Our fee for the Teachers' Pensions Return was subject to agreement directly with the Council and was £3,000 plus VAT.

Summary of reporting outcomes

Overall, we carried out work on two grants and returns, both were unqualified.

Detailed below is a summary of the reporting outcomes from our work on the Council's 2016/17 grants and returns. 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. We are pleased to report that both returns were unqualified.

	Comments below	Qualified	Issue reported	Minor adjustment	Unqualified
PSAA regime					
— Housing Benefit Subsidy	1				
Other grant/return engagements					
— Teachers' Pensions Return	2				
		0	0	0	2

Ref	Summary observations	Amendment
1	Housing Benefit Subsidy — No issues identified as a result of our certification work	No
2	Teachers' Pensions Return — No issues identified as a result of out certification work	No

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 2016/17 was £10,155.

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 2016/17 of £7,155. Our actual fee was the same as the indicative fee, and this compares with the 2015/16 fee for this claim of £9,239.

Grants subject to other engagements

The fees for our assurance work on the Teachers' Pensions Return is agreed directly with the Council. Our fee for 2016/17 was in line with 2015/16.

Breakdown of fees for grants and returns work

Breakdown of fee by grant/return		
	2016/17 (£)	2015/16 (£)
Housing Benefit Subsidy claim	7,155	9,239
Teachers' Pensions Return	3,000	3,000
Total fee	10,155	12,239



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