

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

In respect of

ENTERED HERE AUTHORITY
Looe Town Council

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

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 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.

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

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

Box 11 in the Accounting Statements was incorrectly answered as 'No'. The AGAR was returned for amendment and has been appropriately updated. The Accounting Statements do not include any trust transactions.

The internal auditor has identified control weaknesses in Test C - This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these, as the authority has not reviewed its risk assessment during the financial year. The authority should review its risk assessment during each financial year.

The internal auditor incorrectly answered 'Not covered' to internal control objective F. It was confirmed through correspondence with the authority and inspection of the bank reconciliation that the council holds petty cash. This test should have been covered in the internal audit planned coverage.

The internal auditor has highlighted weaknesses and raised recommendations in their report to the smaller authority. The smaller authority should ensure that action is taken to address these areas of weakness in a timely manner.

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

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

ENTERED HERE EXTERNAL AUDITOR
BDO LLP Southampton

External Auditor Signature

DocuSigned by:

BDO LLP

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21 September 2026

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