

Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2018/19

Walberswick Parish Council - Explanation of Negative Responses

Assertion 4: We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

Answer 4: No

Explanation 4: The external auditor included in the Final External Auditor Report and Certificate 2017/18, dated 26 May 2019, a note that "the smaller authority did not comply with Regulation 15 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 as it failed to make proper provision during the year 2018/19 for the exercise of public rights, since the correct information was not published on a website (explanatory notes to the Notice). As a result, the smaller authority must answer 'No' to Assertion 4 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19 and ensure that it makes proper provision for the exercise of public rights during 2019/20".

PKF Littlejohn LLP had previously confirmed to the Council that the notice itself published by the Council was correct and that there was no need to change the dates of Public inspection. However, it is now understood that the accompanying explanatory notes had not been published as required and it was this aspect which had given rise to the issue. Walberswick Parish Council now has a new RFO in place and procedures for publishing the required notices have been reviewed to ensure that all proper notices are published in 2019/20.