



Grant Thornton

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Dear Chris

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Certification work for Coventry City Council for year ended 31 March 2014

We are required to certify certain claims and returns submitted by Coventry City Council ('the Council'). This certification typically takes place six to nine months after the claim period and represents a final but important part of the process to confirm the Council's entitlement to funding.

Arrangements for certification are prescribed by the Audit Commission, which agrees the scope of the work with each relevant government department or agency, and issues auditors with a Certification Instruction (CI) for each specific claim or return.

We have certified one claim for the financial year 2013/14 relating to expenditure of £134 million. Further details of the claim certified is set out in Appendix A.

There are no issues arising from our certification work which we wish to highlight for your attention. We are satisfied that the Council has appropriate arrangements to compile complete, accurate and timely claims/returns for audit certification.

The indicative fee for 2013/14 for the Council is based on the final 2011/12 certification fees, reflecting the amount of work required by the auditor to certify the claims and returns in that year. Fees for schemes no longer requiring certification (such as the national non-domestic rates return) have been removed. The fees for certification of housing benefit subsidy claims have been reduced by 12 per cent, to reflect the removal of council tax benefit from the scheme. The indicative scale fee set by the Audit Commission for the Council for 2013/14 is £18,031 and we are not proposing to vary this as the amount of work required was similar to that in the base year. This is set out in more detail in Appendix B.

Yours sincerely

Grant Thornton UK LLP

Chartered Accountants

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Appendix A - Details of claims and returns certified for 2013/14

Claim or return	Value	Amended?	Amendment (£)	Qualified?	Comments
Housing benefits subsidy claim	£134,101,933	Yes	£5,798	Yes	The housing and council tax benefit claim was qualified because of a range of errors found in the calculation of benefit and classification of benefit payments on the claim form. The Council has estimated that this should not have a significant impact on the total amount of subsidy due but this will not be confirmed until the Department for Work and Pensions considers the qualifications on the Council's claim and determines the total amount of subsidy to be paid for 2013/14.

Appendix B: Fees for 2013/14 certification work

Claim or return	2012/13 fee (£)	2013/14 indicative fee (£)	2013/14 actual fee (£)	Variance between actual and indicative fee (£)	Explanation for variances
Housing benefits subsidy claim (BEN01)	23,780	18,031	18,031	0	n/a
National non-domestic rates return (NNDR3)	2,700	n/a	n/a	n/a	No requirement to certify this return in 2013/14
Total	26,480	18,031	18,031	0	n/a