

Mr Mike Nuttall
Chief Executive
South Ribble Borough Council
Civic Centre
West Paddock
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16th January 2015

Dear Mike

Certification work for South Ribble Borough Council for year ended 31 March 2014

We are required to certify certain claims and returns submitted by South Ribble Borough 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 £23.1 million. Further details of the claim certified are set out in Appendix A.

A small number of errors were identified during the audit which impacted on the certified claim. The errors identified are not indicative of any systematic failings and are relatively minor in nature. In all other respects the return was appropriately compiled and supported. We would like to express our thanks to the housing benefits team for their support and assistance during the audit.

The indicative scale fee set by the Audit Commission for the Council for 2013/14 is £9,504. This is set out in more detail in Appendix B.

Yours sincerely

For Grant Thornton UK LLP

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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	23,072,625	Yes	1,320	Yes	The extrapolated impact of the overpayments identified during certification, reported to the DWP, amounted to £4,242.

The amendment followed incorrect assessment of claimants' income due to mis-interpretation of payslips. This was successfully isolated to payslips from one specific employer. The amendment had no impact on the subsidy payable to the Council.

The qualification letter related to other errors identified totalling £74. The claim was not amended for these errors. In line with the certification instructions, we are required to report this to the DWP in a qualification letter, including the extrapolated value of £4,242. This is below the threshold at which the DWP would normally make any adjustments to the amounts payable to/from the Council.

Appendix B: Fees for 2013/14 certification work

Claim or return	2012/13 fee (£)	2013/14 indicative fee* (£)	2013/14 actual fee (£)	Variance (£)	Explanation for variances
Housing benefits subsidy claim (BEN01)	10,500	10,500	9,504	0	N/a
National non-domestic rates return (NNDR3)	1,600	1,600	N/a	N/a	Notification received in 2013/14 that there was no longer a requirement to certify this return
Total	12,100	12,100	9,504	0	N/A