



Annual Report on grants and returns 2017/18

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

—
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The contacts at KPMG in connection with this report are:

Neil Thomas Partner

KPMG LLP (UK)

Tel: +44 (0)20 7311 1379
neil.thomas@kpmg.co.uk

Rich Hewes Director

KPMG LLP (UK)

Tel: +44 (0)20 7694 2519
richard.hewes@kpmg.co.uk

Charles Medley Senior Manager

KPMG LLP (UK)

Tel: +44 (0)113 254 2997
charles.medley@kpmg.co.uk

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Headlines

Introduction and background

This report summarises the results of work we have carried out on the Council's 2017/18 grant claims and returns.

This includes the work we have completed under the Public Sector Audit Appointment certification arrangements, as well as the work we have completed on other grants/returns under separate engagement terms. The work completed in 2017/18 is:

- Under the Public Sector Audit Appointments arrangements we certified one claim – the Council's 2017/18 Housing Benefit Subsidy claim. This had a value of £131,067,123
- Under separate engagements we issued reports on two claims/returns as listed below:
 - Teachers' Pensions Contributions for Financial Year 2017/18 with a value of £20,234,265.83; and
 - Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts return with a value of £28,971,262.06.

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

Our work on the other grant assurance engagements resulted in the following reports:

- Reporting on agreed upon procedures in respect of Teachers' Pensions End of Year Certificate for the year ended 31 March 2018; and
- Report of factual findings in connection with London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts 2017-2018 pooling return for the year ended 31 March 2018.

No adjustments were necessary to any of the Council's grants and returns as a result of our certification work this year.

Recommendations We have made no recommendations to the Council from our work this year.

Fees (Page 5)

Our fee for certifying the Council's 2017/18 Housing Benefit Subsidy grant was £34,358 insert fee, which is in line with the indicative fee set by PSAA.

Our fees for the other grant/return engagements were subject to agreement directly with the Council and were: £3,900 for the Teachers' Pensions Contributions for Financial Year 2017/18 and £5,750 for the Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts return.

Summary of reporting outcomes

Overall, we carried out work on three grants and returns:

- **All three were unqualified with no amendment;**

Detailed below is a summary of the reporting outcomes from our work on the Council’s 2017/18 grants and returns, showing where either audit amendments were made as a result of our work or where we had to qualify our audit certificate or assurance report.

A qualification means that issues were identified concerning the Council’s compliance with a scheme’s requirements that could not be resolved through adjustment. In these circumstances, it is likely that the relevant grant paying body will require further information from the Council to satisfy itself that the full amounts of grant claimed are appropriate.

	Qualified	Significant adjustment	Minor adjustment	Unqualified
Public Sector Audit Appointments regime				
— Housing Benefit Subsidy				●
Other grant/return engagements				
— Teachers’ Pensions Contributions for Financial Year 2017/18				●
— Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts return				●
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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 2017/18 was £44,008.

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 2017/18 of £34,358. Our actual fee was the same as the indicative fee, and this compares to the 2016/17 fee for this claim of £22,785.

The fees for our work on other grants are agreed directly with the Council. Our fees for 2017/18 were more than those in 2016/17. The reason for the increase was due to a change in the agreed upon procedures in place for the pooling of housing capital receipts return.

Breakdown of fees for grants and returns work

Breakdown of fee by grant/return		
	2017/18 (£)	2016/17 (£)
Housing Benefit Subsidy claim	34,358	22,785
Teachers' Pensions Contributions for Financial Year 2017/18	3,900	3,900
Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts return	5,750	4,750
Total fee	44,008	31,435



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