



**Wincanton**  
Town Council



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## **Explanation of 'No response: Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26**

Smaller authorities prepare their annual governance statement by completing Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. This is in the form of a number of statements, known as assertions, to which the authority needs to answer, 'Yes' or 'No'.

If an authority is not able to respond 'Yes' to any assertion, it needs to provide an explanation to the external auditor, on a separate sheet, describing how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These explanations must be published along with the completed AGAR.

7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit. – response to this assertion is 'No'

The internal audit report stated:

### **Audit findings**

Testing conducted at the interim audit and findings included in the interim audit report. As noted at the time *'the bank reconciliations have been signed but the bank statements have not, and I will need to see evidence of the bank verification process being completed in accordance with the adopted Financial Regulations at the final internal audit to achieve a positive sign-off for this internal control objective.'*

The RFO balances the bank accounts every month, bank reconciliations are printed and signed by the RFO. However, the request for a non-signatory Cllr to check and verify the statements against the reconciliations and sign them accordingly did not receive a response.

Moving forward the Clerk shall bring the documents for a non-signatory to check and sign on the evening of the Full Council meeting each month.

The internal auditor confirmed:

I reviewed the year-end bank reconciliation for all accounts and was able to confirm the balances on 31 March 2026 to the bank statements and found no errors. I was able to confirm the total bank balances to the figure included in the Accountings Statements on the AGAR.