



# Grant Thornton

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Dear Martin

## **Certification work for Torbay Council for year ended 31 March 2016**

We are required to certify the Housing Benefit subsidy claim submitted by Torbay 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.

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 gave the Secretary of State power to transfer Audit Commission responsibilities to other bodies. Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) have taken on the transitional responsibilities for HB COUNT issued by the Audit Commission in February 2015

We have certified the Housing Benefit subsidy claim for the financial year 2015/16 relating to expenditure of £67.3 million. Further details of the claims certified are set out in Appendix A.

There were 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 2015/16 for the Council is based on the final 2013/14 certification fees, reflecting the amount of work required by the auditor to certify the Housing Benefit subsidy claim that year. The indicative scale fee set by the Audit Commission for the Council for 2015/16 is £7,954. Additional work was required to certify the housing benefit subsidy claim at a cost of £171. We have requested approval from the PSAA for a fee variation for this additional amount. This is set out in more detail in Appendix B.

Yours sincerely

For Grant Thornton UK LLP

**Appendix A - Details of claims and returns certified for 2015/16**

<b>Claim or return</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Amended?</b>	<b>Amendment (£)</b>	<b>Qualified?</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Housing benefits subsidy claim	67,253,776	Yes	£4,976	No	Increase in subsidy receivable was due to a system issue identified which misclassified some claims as modified schemes, which would attract nil subsidy.

**Appendix B: Fees for 2015/16 certification work**

<b>Claim or return</b>	<b>2013/14 fee (£)</b>	<b>2015/16 indicative fee (£)</b>	<b>2015/16 actual fee (£)</b>	<b>Variance (£)</b>	<b>Explanation for variances</b>
Housing benefits subsidy claim (BEN01)	10,605	7,954	8,125	171	Additional work was necessary to verify that the Council's amendments to rectify the system issue, that was misclassifying claims as modified schemes, had been correctly made.
Total	10,605	7,954	8,125	171	

\* Includes a fee variation of £171, which is subject to the approval of the PSAA