

Framwellgate Moor Parish Council
Explanation for 'No' Response to Assertion 4
Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

The Council has responded "No" to Assertion 4 of the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26, which states:

"We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations."

This response has been made following the findings of the External Auditor in respect of the 2024/25 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR).

The External Auditor identified that the Council did not fully comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 relating to the period for the exercise of public rights, specifically the requirement to provide a period of 30 working days including the first 10 working days of July for the inspection of accounts.

The Council acknowledges this finding and has reviewed its procedures to ensure future compliance. Measures implemented include:

- establishing a formal AGAR timetable;
- ensuring the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements are approved in sufficient time;
- scheduling the public rights period to comply fully with statutory requirements;
- retaining publication evidence including dated website screenshots and copies of notices.

For the 2025/26 AGAR cycle, the Council will publish the Notice of Public Rights commencing on 4 June 2026 and ending on 15 July 2026, ensuring full compliance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.