



EGGLESCLIFFE & EAGLESCLIFFE COUNCIL

7th May 2025

Dear Sirs

I write on behalf of Egglecliffe and Eaglescliffe Council regarding the late posting of the Completion Notice of 2023/24 AGAR and effect on the 2024/25 return, as advised in a telephone conversation this morning I was advised to put the issue in writing with this note to accompany the 2024/25 return.

The completion notice 2023/24 was late going onto the Council website as it wasn't received by the Clerk, despite the Clerks email address being on the submission forms. I, as Clerk/RFO, rung the Mazar office twice during September 2024 to chase the outcome of the external audit but to no answer. I then rung a different number on the 8th October 2024 to be advised that the number I had been trying was unanswered due to the officer leaving the team and the phone not being covered. It was then identified that the completion email had not been sent to the Clerk but to the Chair, who had not realised I was not included in the notification. Once received by the Clerk it was immediately processed and placed on the website. My advice from yourselves at the time, knowing we had missed the 30th September deadline, was to advise the internal auditor this year that objective N be ticked 'No' to declare that the authority had not complied with the publication requirements for 2023/24.

This has been done and described in the internal audit report, saying 'failed to comply' but the report does not state:

1. the reason why the notice couldn't be placed was due to Mazars not notifying the Clerk/RFO and
2. that the notice was placed onto the website and parish noticeboards immediately once received.

The Finance Committee here feel that this is a very negative comment and a blemish against the Councils good record of governance and would like it acknowledging that the notice was placed on the website as soon as received and that despite trying to contact Mazar regarding the notice it wasn't until the 8th October that it was received to action.

I and the Council hope this can be acknowledged with this years AGAR.

Kind regards, Norma Ironside, Clerk / RFO to the Council.