

Future of Local Audit: Consultation on secondary legislation

Response from Heaton-with-Oxcliffe Parish Council

The Council supports the intention of The Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2014 (Clause 5 (6) refers) to make provision to exempt specified smaller authorities from specified audit requirements where the authority's gross income and gross expenditure in a given year is below the threshold of £25,000.

The Council understands that the exemption will apply to the *'limited assurance'* form of audit that will be set out in the Code of Audit Practice that the Comptroller and Auditor General will prepare in relation to smaller authorities.

The Council notes that the Government will take a risk-based approach to the proposed exemption and acknowledges the circumstances where the exemption will not apply.

The Council accepts that such exemption will place a responsibility to appoint a competent local auditor (or have an auditor appointed for them by the specified person) and that local electors will have the right to ask questions of the auditor and raise an objection to an item in the accounts etc.

The Council also notes that the regulations may set out the process that will underpin the exemption and accepts the duties that this will place upon it.