

# Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities in England Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18 Part 3

## To be completed by:

- all smaller authorities\* where either the higher of gross income or gross expenditure exceeded £25,000 but did not exceed £6.5 million; and
- any other smaller authorities that either:
  - are unable to certify themselves as exempt; or
  - have requested a limited assurance review.

## Guidance notes on completing Part 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18

1. Every smaller authority in England that either received gross income or incurred gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 must complete Part 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return at the end of each financial year in accordance with Proper Practices.
2. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return is made up of three parts, pages 3 to 6:
  - The annual internal audit report is completed by the authority's internal auditor.
  - Sections 1 and 2 are to be completed and approved by the authority.
  - Section 3 is completed by the external auditor and will be returned to the authority.
3. The authority must approve Section 1, Annual Governance Statement, before approving Section 2, Accounting Statements, and both must be approved before 2 July 2018.
4. An authority with either gross income or gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 or an authority with neither income nor expenditure exceeding £25,000, but which is unable to certify itself as exempt, or requesting a limited assurance review, must send to the external auditor:
  - the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Sections 1, 2 and 3, together with
  - a bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2018
  - an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements
  - your notification of the commencement date of the period for the exercise of public rights

Unless requested, do not send any original records to your external auditor. Your external auditor will ask for any additional documents needed.

Once the external auditor has completed and is able to give an opinion on the limited assurance review, the Annual Governance and Accountability Return including Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate will be returned to the authority.

## Publication Requirements

Smaller authorities with either income or expenditure exceeding £25,000 must publish on a public website, under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Annual Governance and Accountability Return:

- Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2017/18, page 4
- Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2017/18, page 5
- Section 3 – The External Auditor Report and Certificate 2017/18, page 6
- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and other information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

It is recommended as best practice, to avoid any potential confusion by local electors and interested parties, that you also publish the Annual Internal Audit Report, page 3.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return constitutes the annual return referred to in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Throughout, the words 'external auditor' have the same meaning as the words 'local auditor' in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

\*for a complete list of bodies that may be smaller authorities refer to schedule 2 to Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

## Guidance notes on completing Part 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18

- The authority **must** comply with *Proper Practices* in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this Annual Governance and Accountability Return. *Proper Practices* are found in the *Practitioners' Guide\** which is updated from time to time and contains everything needed to prepare successfully for the financial year-end and the subsequent work by the external auditor.
- Make sure that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is complete (i.e. no empty highlighted boxes), and is properly signed and dated. Avoid making amendments to the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return. Any amendments must be approved by the authority, properly initialled and accompanied by an explanation. If the Annual Governance and Accountability Return contains unapproved or unexplained amendments, it may be returned and additional costs will be incurred.
- The authority should receive and note the annual internal audit report prior to approving the annual governance statement and before approving the accounts.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for completeness before sending it to the external auditor.
- Do not send the external auditor any information not specifically requested. However, you **must** inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Finance Officer or Chairman, and provide relevant email addresses and telephone numbers.
- Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation to be sent to your external auditor with the Annual Governance and Accountability Return covers all the bank accounts. If the authority holds any short-term investments, note their value on the bank reconciliation. The external auditor must be able to agree the bank reconciliation to Box 8 on the accounting statements (Section 2, page 5). An explanation **must** be provided of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8. More help on bank reconciliation is available in the *Practitioners' Guide\**.
- Explain fully significant variances in the accounting statements on page 5. Do not just send a copy of the detailed accounting records instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that you understand the reasons for all variances. Include complete numerical and narrative analysis to support the explanation.
- If the external auditor has to review unsolicited information, or receives an incomplete bank reconciliation, or variances are not fully explained, additional costs will be incurred.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and that the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2017) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2018).
- Please enter the authority's name **only** in Section 3 on Page 6. **Do not complete the remainder of that section**, which is reserved for the external auditor.
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, **must** set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights. From the commencement date for a single period of 30 consecutive working days, the accounts and accounting records can be inspected. Whatever period the RFO sets it **must** include a common inspection period – during which the accounts and accounting records of all smaller authorities must be available for public inspection – of the first ten working days of July.
- The authority **must** publish the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, including the period for the exercise of public rights and the name and address of the external auditor.

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements		Yes	No
All sections	Have all highlighted boxes have been completed?	✓	
	Has all additional information requested, including the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights, been provided for the external auditor?	✓	
Internal Audit Report	Have all highlighted boxes have been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?	✓	
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', is an explanation provided?	✓	
Section 2	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chairman of the approval meeting?	✓	
	Has an explanation of significant variations from last year to this year been provided?	✓	
	The bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2018 is agreed to Box 8?	✓	
	Has an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 been provided?	✓	
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority is a sole managing trustee? NB: do not send trust accounting statements unless requested or instructed.	✓	

\*More guidance on completing this annual return is available in *Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices*, which can be downloaded from [www.naic.gov.uk](http://www.naic.gov.uk) or from [www.slcc.co.uk](http://www.slcc.co.uk) or from [www.ada.org.uk](http://www.ada.org.uk)

## Guidance notes on completing Part 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18

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- Make sure that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is complete (i.e. no empty highlighted boxes), and is properly signed and dated. Avoid making amendments to the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return. Any amendments must be approved by the authority, properly initialled and accompanied by an explanation. If the Annual Governance and Accountability Return contains unapproved or unexplained amendments, it may be returned and additional costs will be incurred.
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	Has all additional information requested, including the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights, been provided for the external auditor?	✓	
Internal Audit Report	Have all highlighted boxes have been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?	✓	
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', is an explanation provided?	✓	
Section 2	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chairman of the approval meeting?	✓	
	Has an explanation of significant variations from last year to this year been provided?	✓	
	The bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2018 is agreed to Box 8?	✓	
	Has an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 been provided?	✓	
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority is a sole managing trustee? NB: do not send trust accounting statements unless requested or instructed.	✓	

\*More guidance on completing this annual return is available in *Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices*, which can be downloaded from [www.nalc.gov.uk](http://www.nalc.gov.uk) or from [www.sicc.co.uk](http://www.sicc.co.uk) or from [www.ada.org.uk](http://www.ada.org.uk)

# Annual Internal Audit Report 2017/18

## OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

This authority's internal auditor, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls to be in operation during the financial year ended 31 March 2018.

The internal audit for 2017/18 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Agreed? Please choose one of the following		
	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	✓		
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	✓		
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓		
<b>K. (For local councils only)</b>			
Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	Not applicable
			✓

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

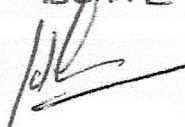
Date(s) internal audit undertaken

09/04/2018

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

John K MURRAY, DMS, CFFA

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit



Date

09/04/2018.

\*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

\*\*Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

# Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2017/18

We acknowledge as the members of:

OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2018, that:

	Agreed		Yes' means that this authority:
	Yes	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	YES		prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	YES		made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	YES		has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	YES		during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	YES		considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	YES		arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	YES		responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	YES		disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A
			N/A

\*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response. Describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified.

This Annual Governance Statement is approved by this authority and recorded as minute reference:

2421

dated

17-04-2018

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk where approval is given:

Chairman

*William Gas*

Signed by:

Clerk

*Julie Ayne*

Other information required by the Transparency Codes (not part of Annual Governance Statement)  
Authority web address

<https://www.otterbourneparishcouncil.org/>

## Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2017/18 for

### OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2017 £	31 March 2018 £	
1. Balances brought forward	50,919	49,338	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	34,296	37,203	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	10,706	5,552	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	11,439	14,406	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and employment expenses.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	35,144	27,522	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	49,338	50,165	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	49,338	50,165	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	425,095	426,347	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	The Council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
		No	N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2018 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return present fairly the financial position of this authority and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer

*Julie Payne*

Date

17-04-2018

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

17-04-2018

and recorded as minute reference:

2421

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where approval of the Accounting Statements is given

*William Jones*

### Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2017/18

In respect of

Otterbourne Parish Council (HA0205)

#### 1 Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2018; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with guidance issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (see note below). Our work **does not** constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would do.

#### 2 External auditor report 2017/18

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

None

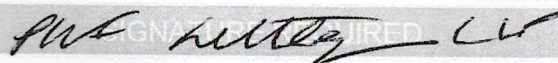
#### 3 External auditor certificate 2017/18

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2018

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature



Date

17/07/2018

\* Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance reviews for 2017/18 in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website ([www.nao.org.uk](http://www.nao.org.uk))

## Bank Reconciliation

Name of small authority: **OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

County area: **HAMPSHIRE**

### Financial year ending 31 March 2018

Prepared by: **MRS JULIE AYRE, PARISH CLERK AND RFO** 3 April 2018

Balance per bank statements as at 31 March 2018:	£	£
Lloyds Treasurers account	2,961.07	
Lloyds 12 month fixed term account	25,982.00	
Lloyds 6 month fixed term account	11,250.00	
Lloyds 32 day notice account	<u>10,000.00</u>	
		50,193.07
Petty cash float		7.70
Less: any un-presented cheques at 31 March 2018		
Cheque number 003184	<u>36.00</u>	( 36.00)
Add: any un-banked cash at 31 March 2018		0.00
		<hr/>
Net balances as at 31 March 2018 (Box 8)		<u>50,164.77</u>

**The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year as follows:**

#### CASH BOOK:

Opening Balance 1 April 2017 (Prior year Box 8)	49,337.96
Add: Receipts in the year	42,755.18
Less: Payments in the year	(41,928.37)
	<hr/>
Closing balance per cash book (receipts and payments book) as at 31 March 2018 (must equal net balances above – Box 8)	<u>50,164.77</u>





## JOHN K. MURRAY

TAXATION and ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES

13 SHELLEY CLOSE  
WINCHESTER, HANTS  
SO22 5AS

9 April 2018.

Dear Julie

Telephone 01962 868031

Fax 01962 620355

Mobile 07850 863612

john.murray233@ntlworld.com

*new address for 2019  
9 Burley Road  
Winchester  
SO22 6LT*

### Otterbourne Parish Council - Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018 "Internal Audit"

I have now completed the "Internal Audit" of your Parish Council Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018. I have carried out the Internal Audit following the guidelines as documented in the NALC/SLCC Book "Governance and Accountability in Local Councils in England and Wales - A Practitioners' Guide". Issued in March 2017. Plus, the new edition just issued in March 2018.

I am pleased to say that I have no major matters that I need to raise for the attention of the Council However, we did discuss the following items: -

1. Recording of cheque payments within the Minutes. I would like to see a typed and signed schedule rather than the hand-written note attached to the Internet payment schedule.
2. We discussed the new GDPR coming into effect in May 2018 and how you are dealing with personal data in the public domain such as email addresses and home phone number.
3. I drew your attention to Page 48 of the 2018 edition of the Practitioners Guide and to Paragraph 5.104

I have noted that the Audit Commission Pro-forma (with details of the Variations and Bank Reconciliation you will be sending off with this) have not yet been adopted by the Parish Council and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk. You have provided me with some copies of the Pro-forma - Schedule 2. Could I have a signed copy of Schedules 1, 2 and 4 and Schedule 3 when returned signed by the Audit Commission. Please ensure, again this year, that Section 1 is agreed before Section 2.

You have provided me with copies of the Bank Reconciliation, the Explanation of Variances and also a copy of your full set of Accounts? Please ensure that the adoption of the Accounts and the Audit Commission Pro-forma are minuted at the appropriate times - in particular Section 1 and Section 2 of the Pro-forma need to be specifically mentioned within the Minutes and this approval must be by **Full Council** and not by Committee. The receipt of this letter and any action taken on it should also be recorded within the Minutes. Please ensure (and I am sure you will) that the Form is fully completed (including filling in the boxes for the name of the Parish Council) otherwise it may be returned by the External Auditor

If the Council wishes to discuss any of these points - or any other matter - now or in the future I would be more than happy so to do. Obviously, if the query can be cleared quickly by a 'phone call, then there would be no further charge. If, however, the matter requires some research on my part and/or would take time to resolve then I would have to charge and I would agree this with you beforehand so that there was no misunderstanding.

I enclose my Invoice for the work done so far.

Yours sincerely,

John K. Murray

Mrs. J. Ayre  
Clerk to Otterbourne Parish Council  
PO Box 663  
Winchester, Hants.  
SO23 3PB

**CONFIRMATION OF THE DATES OF THE PERIOD FOR THE  
EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS**

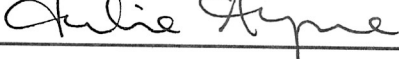
Name of smaller authority: \_\_\_\_\_ **OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL** \_\_\_\_\_

County Area (local councils and parish meetings only): **HAMPSHIRE** \_\_\_\_\_

**On behalf of the smaller authority, I confirm that the dates set for the period for  
the exercise of public rights are as follows:**

Commencing on \_\_\_\_\_ **18 June 2018** \_\_\_\_\_

and ending on \_\_\_\_\_ **27 July 2018** \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_

Role: \_\_\_\_\_ **Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM TO PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP WITH  
THE AGAR AND OTHER REQUESTED DOCUMENTATION**

# Otterbourne Parish Council

## Notice of conclusion of audit

### Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2018

Sections 20(2) and 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

	Notes
<p>1. The audit of accounts for <b>Otterbourne Parish Council</b> for the year ended 31 March 2018 has been completed and the accounts have been published.</p>	<p>This notice and Sections 1, 2 &amp; 3 of the AGAR must be published by 30 September. <b>This must include publication on the smaller authority's website.</b></p>
<p>2. The Annual Governance &amp; Accountability Return is available for inspection by any local government elector of the area of <b>Otterbourne Parish Council</b> on application to:</p>	
<p>(a) <u>The Parish Clerk</u> <u>Otterbourne Parish Council</u> <u>PO Box 663 Winchester SO23 3PB</u> <u>or clerk.otterbourne@parish.hants.gov.uk</u></p>	<p>(a) Insert the name, position and address of the person to whom local government electors should apply to inspect the AGAR</p>
<p>(b) <u>Monday - Friday</u> <u>0900 - 1800</u></p>	<p>(b) Insert the hours during which inspection rights may be exercised</p>
<p>3. Copies will be provided to any person on payment of <u>£0.50</u>(c) for each copy of the Annual Governance &amp; Accountability Return.</p>	<p>(c) Insert a reasonable sum for copying costs</p>
<p>Announcement made by: (d) <u>Mrs Julie Ayre</u> <u>Parish Clerk</u></p>	<p>(d) Insert the name and position of person placing the notice</p>
<p>Date of announcement: (e) <u>01/08/2018</u></p>	<p>(e) Insert the date of placing of the notice</p>