

Internal Drainage Boards in England

Annual return for the year ended 31 March 2013

Internal Drainage Boards in England with an annual turnover of £6.5 million or less must complete an annual return in accordance with proper practices summarising their activities at the end of each financial year.

Each annual return on pages 2 to 5 is made up of four sections:

- Sections 1 and 2 are completed by the person nominated by the board.
- Section 3 is completed by the external auditor appointed by the Audit Commission.
- Section 4 is completed by the board's internal audit provider.

The board must approve this annual return no later than 30 June 2013.

Completing your annual return

Guidance notes, including a completion checklist, are provided on page 6 and at relevant points in the annual return.

Complete all sections highlighted in blue. Do **not** leave any blue box blank. Incomplete or incorrect returns require additional external audit work and may incur additional costs.

Send the annual return, together with your bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2013, an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements and any additional information requested, to your external auditor by the due date.

Your auditor will identify and ask for any additional documents needed for audit. Therefore, unless requested, do **not** send any original financial records to the external auditor.

Audited and certified annual returns will be returned to the board for publication or public display of sections 1, 2 and 3. You must publish or display the audited annual return by 30 September 2013.

It should not be necessary for you to contact the external auditor or the Audit Commission directly for guidance.

More guidance on completing this annual return is available in the Practitioners' Guide for Internal Drainage Boards that can be downloaded from the Association of Drainage Authorities' website at www.ada.org.uk

Section 1 – Accounting statements 2012/13 for

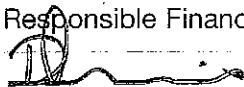
RIVER STOUR (KENT)

INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2012 £	31 March 2013 £	
1 Balances brought forward	101,394	94,465	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 (+) Rates and special levies	515,039	534,806	Total amount of receipts or income in the year from direct rates on landowners and special levies on local authorities.
3 (+) All other income	59,074	63,219	Total receipts or income as recorded in the cashbook less the rates and special levies (line 2). include all contributions from EA here.
4 (-) Watercourses and pumping stations	245,988	249,571	Total payments or expenditure including capital spending and employment costs on construction and maintenance of watercourses and pumping stations.
5 (-) Loan interest/ capital repayments	8,376	8,376	Total payments or expenditure of capital and interest made during the year on the Board's borrowings (if any).
6 (-) All other payments	326,678	332,290	Total payments or expenditure as recorded in the cashbook less watercourses and pumping stations (line 4) and loan interest/ capital repayments (line 5). Include all contributions to EA here.
7 (=) Balances carried forward	94,465	102,253	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6)
8 Total cash and short term investments	94,387	105,069	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 other long term investments and assets	298,018	275,000	The original Asset and Investment Register value of all fixed assets, plus other long term assets owned by the Board as at 31 March.
10 Total borrowings	36,857	29,601	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

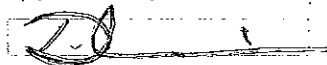
I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2013 the accounting statements in this annual return present fairly the financial position of the Board and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer:



Date 24/04/2013

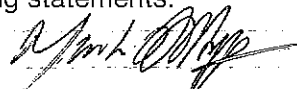
I confirm that these accounting statements were approved by the Board on this date:



and recorded as Board minute reference:

F.1-5

Signed by Chair of meeting approving these accounting statements:



Date 16/05/2013

Section 2 – Annual governance statement 2012/13

We acknowledge as the members of: RIVER STOUR (KENT) INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including 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 2013, that:

	Agreed		Yes means that the board
	Yes	No	
1 We approved the accounting statements prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and proper practices.	✓		prepared its accounting statements in the way prescribed by law.
2 We maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		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 codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the board to conduct its business or on its finances.	✓		has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done 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.	✓		during the year has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about the board's accounts.
5 We carried out an assessment of the risks facing the board and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		considered the financial and other risks it faces and has dealt with them properly.
6 We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the board's accounting records and control systems.	✓		arranged for a competent person, independent of the board's financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of the board.
7 We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		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 the board and where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements.	✓		disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.

This annual governance statement is approved by the board and recorded as minute reference

F.1-5

dated 16/05/2013

Signed by:

Chair

dated

Signed by:

Clerk

dated

***Note:** Provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No'. Describe how the board will address the weaknesses identified.

Section 3 – External auditor certificate and opinion 2012/13

Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2013 of:

RIVER STOUR (Kent)

INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Respective responsibilities of the board and the auditor

The board is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The board prepares an annual return in accordance with proper practices which:

- summarises the board accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2013; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are important to our audit responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to conduct an audit in accordance with guidance issued by the Audit Commission and, on the basis of our review of the annual return and supporting information, to report whether any matters that come to our attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

External auditor report

~~(Except for the matters reported below)~~* on the basis of our review, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. ~~(*delete as appropriate)~~

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

- The Annual Return was not accurately completed before submission for audit. Section 1, Box 10 of the prior year should be £34,558 not £36,857 as reported per the clerk.

External auditor signature

PKF Littlejohn LLP

External auditor name

PKF Littlejohn LLP

Date

4-9-13

Note: The auditor signing this page has been appointed by the Audit Commission and is reporting to you that they have carried out and completed all the work that is required of them by law. For further information please refer to the Audit Commission's publication entitled *Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and of Audited Small Bodies*.

Section 4 – Annual internal audit report 2012/13 to

Enter Internal Drainage

Board name here:

RIVER STOUR (KENT) INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

The board's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ended 31 March 2013.

Internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the board'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 following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the board.

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

For any other risk areas identified by the board (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: DAVID GRIFFITHS

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: D. Griffiths

Date: 01/05/2013

***Note:** 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, internal audit must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Guidance notes on completing the 2012/13 annual return

- 1 You must apply proper practices for preparing this annual return. Proper practices are found in the *Practitioners' Guide** which is updated from time to time and contains everything you should need to prepare successfully for your financial year-end and the subsequent audit.
- 2 Make sure that your annual return is complete (i.e. no empty blue boxes), and is properly signed and dated. Avoid making any amendments to the completed return. But, if this is unavoidable, make sure the amendments are approved by the board, properly initialled and an explanation is provided to the external auditor. Annual returns containing unapproved or unexplained amendments will be returned unaudited and may incur additional costs.
- 3 Use the checklist provided below. Use a second pair of eyes, perhaps a board member or the Chair, to review your annual return for completeness before sending it to the external auditor.
- 4 Do not send the external auditor any information that you are not specifically asked for. Doing so is not helpful. However, you must notify the external auditor with details of any change in Clerk, Responsible Finance Officer or Chair of the Board.
- 5 Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation which you send to your external auditor with the annual return covers **all** your bank accounts. If your board holds any short-term investments, note their value on the bank reconciliation. The external auditor must be able to agree your bank reconciliation to Box 8 on the Accounting statements (Section 1). **You must provide an explanation for any difference between Box 7 and Box 8.** More help on bank reconciliation is available in the *Practitioners' Guide**.
- 6 **Explain fully** significant variances in the accounting statements on page 2. Do not just send in a copy of your detailed financial statements instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that **you** understand the reasons for all variances. Include a complete analysis to support your explanation. There are a number of examples provided in the *Practitioners' Guide** to assist you.
- 7 If the external auditor has to review unsolicited information, or receives an incomplete bank reconciliation, or you do not fully explain variances, this may incur additional costs for which the auditor will make a charge.
- 8 Make sure that your accounting statements add up and that the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2012) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2012).
- 9 **Do not complete section 3.** The external auditor will complete it at the conclusion of the audit.

Completion checklist - No answers mean you may not have met requirements		Done?
All sections	All blue boxes have been completed?	YKS
	All information requested by the external auditor has been sent with this annual return? Please refer to your notice of audit.	YKS
Section 1	Board approval confirmed by signature of Chair of meeting approving accounting statements?	YKS
	An explanation of significant variations from last year to this year is provided?	YKS
	Bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2013 agreed to Box 8?	YKS
Section 2	An explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 is provided?	YKS
	For any statement to which the response is 'no', an explanation is provided?	—
Section 4	All blue boxes completed by internal audit and explanations provided?	YKS

*Note: *Governance and Accountability for Internal Drainage Boards in England – A Practitioners' Guide*, is available from the ADA website www.ada.org.uk or from The Association of Drainage Authorities, 12 Cranes Drive, Surbiton, Surrey, KT5 8AL.