

Ian Duncan  
Director of Finance  
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Trafford Town Hall  
Talbot Road  
Stretford, M32 0YT.

28 January 2015

Dear Ian

**Certification work for Trafford Council for year ended 31 March 2014**

We are required to certify certain claims and returns submitted by Trafford Council ('the Council'). This certification typically takes place six to nine months after the claim period and represents a final but important part of the process to confirm the Council's entitlement to funding.

Arrangements for certification are prescribed by the Audit Commission, which agrees the scope of the work with each relevant government department or agency, and issues auditors with a Certification Instruction (CI) for each specific claim or return.

We have certified one claim (housing benefits subsidy) under the Audit Commission arrangements for the financial year 2013/14. We issued a qualification letter to the DWP reporting on a number of issues. The main issue related to misclassification of overpayments. Similar findings have been included in qualification letters for previous years and are fairly common reporting issues for this claim.

The detail of the claim certified is set out in Appendix A.

The scale fee set by the Audit Commission for the Council for the certification of 2013/14 claims is £21,284.

Yours sincerely

For Grant Thornton UK LLP

**Appendix A - Details of claims and returns certified for 2013/14**

<b>Claim or return</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Amended?</b>	<b>Amendment (£)</b>	<b>Qualified?</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Housing benefits subsidy claim	£66,114,254	No	Nil	Yes	We issued a Qualification Letter to the DWP reporting on a number of issues. As in previous years the main issue related to misclassification of overpayments.