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Andrew Stokes
Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Moorlands house
Stockwell Street
Leek
SK13 6HQ

Grant Thornton UK LLP

The Colmore Building
20 Colmore Circus
Birmingham
B4 6AT

T +44 (0)121 212 4000
F +44 (0)121 212 4014

23 January 2019

Dear Andrew,

Certification work for Staffordshire Moorlands District Council for the year ended 31 March 2018

We are required to certify the Housing Benefit subsidy claim submitted by Staffordshire Moorlands District 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.

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 gave the Secretary of State power to transfer Audit Commission responsibilities to other bodies. Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) took on the transitional responsibilities for HB COUNT issued by the Audit Commission in February 2015.

We have certified the Housing Benefit subsidy claim for the financial year 2017/18 relating to subsidy claimed of £15.1 million. The results of our testing did not identify any errors or extended testing, as such we were able to certify the original claim without either amendment or qualification on 12 November 2018. Further details are set out in Appendix A.

The indicative fee for 2017/18 for the Council was based on the actual 2015/16 certification fees, reflecting the amount of work required by the auditor to certify the Housing Benefit subsidy claim that year. The indicative scale fee set by PSAA for the Council for 2017/18 was £7,288 (2016/17 £10,815) and we will not seek any variations from this set fee.

Yours sincerely

Grant Thornton

Grant Thornton UK LLP

Birmingham

Appendix A - Details of claims and returns certified for 2017/18

Claim or return	Value	Amended?	Qualified?	Comments
Housing benefits subsidy claim	£15,061,714	No	No	No errors identified which required extended testing or reporting to DWP.