INTERNAL AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

Parish & Town Auditing Services
2 School Villas, Crosslands, Tonedale, Wellington TA21 0AF
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Telephone: 07772 657446

Declaration of Independence

Councils are required to appoint an independent and competent Internal Auditor for the 2026/27 financial year.

The Practitioners' Guide 2026/27 – Best Practice Guidance for Internal Audit identifies independence and competence as key principles when selecting and appointing an Internal Auditor. The Guide also requires the authority to consider the Internal Auditor's independence annually, including personal, financial and professional independence.

I confirm that I have considered these requirements and confirm the following:

1. Personal Independence

I confirm that I have personal independence from your Council.

I confirm that I have no personal, family, member, officer, employee, contractor or other relationship with your Council, its councillors or employees that could create an actual or perceived conflict of interest or otherwise compromise my ability to undertake the internal audit objectively and independently.

2. Financial Independence

I confirm that I have financial independence from your Council.

I confirm that I have no financial interest, financial relationship or other financial involvement with your Council that could compromise, or could reasonably be perceived to compromise, my independence as Internal Auditor.

I confirm that my financial relationship with your Council will be limited to the agreed fees for providing the internal audit service and any other services specifically disclosed and agreed with the Council.

3. Professional Independence

I confirm that I have professional independence from Stantonbury Parish Council.

I confirm that I have no involvement in the Council's:

- financial decision-making;

- financial management;
- bookkeeping or accounting;
- preparation of the Council's accounts;
- financial controls or procedures;
- authorisation of payments;
- management or operational activities; or
- other responsibilities that could compromise my ability to undertake an objective and independent internal audit.

I confirm that I will undertake the internal audit objectively and independently and will not audit work for which I have responsibility or involvement.

4. Ongoing Independence

I understand that independence must be maintained throughout the period of my appointment.

I agree to notify your Council promptly if there is any change in my circumstances that could affect my personal, financial or professional independence.

I also understand that the Council may review my independence during the year if circumstances change or if any potential conflict of interest arises.

5. Confirmation

I confirm that the information provided in this declaration is accurate to the best of my knowledge and that I am satisfied that I can undertake the role of Internal Auditor for your Council independently, objectively and without any actual or perceived conflict of interest.

Name: Paul Russell
Position: Internal Auditor, Parish & Town Auditing Services



Date: 2026/2027 Financial Year