

## **Explanation of “no” Responses on Governance Statement**

The “no” answers in boxes 3 and 4 are as a result of the previous year’s return being submitted after the 30<sup>th</sup> June deadline.

The statement for the savings account had not been received in time to complete the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the Annual Council Meeting in May. As the Council meets bi-monthly, the Council would have to either call an extraordinary meeting in June, which would incur additional costs, or request an extension to the 30<sup>th</sup> June deadline.

The external auditors gave permission for the AGAR to be submitted after the July meeting. Although this had been agreed, it was outside of the deadline set, so warranted a “no” response.

In order to include the first 10 working days of July within the period for the exercise of public rights, yet still give the 30 working days after the return was approved by the Council, having taken advice from the Cumbria Association of Local Councils, an extended period for the public to view the accounts was advertised. This means that the dates did not fit with the expected model, so warranted a “no” response.