



Education  
Funding  
Agency

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[efa-enquiry-form](#)

24 January 2017

Dear Accounting Officer

I am writing to you about submission of your accounts return for the year to August 2016.

As you may know, we developed a new online form for this year's return. A number of trusts and auditors have experienced problems with the new system for completing the return, and I have therefore decided that it is appropriate to extend the deadline. **Please can all trusts ensure that they submit their completed accounts return by Tuesday 28 February.** This new deadline also applies to those trusts preparing short period accounts, who were due to submit their accounts return on 21 February.

I apologise for any problems trusts and auditors have experienced when completing the accounts return. I want to reassure you that we are taking action to resolve issues with the new online form and will continue to treat as a priority any new issues identified. We have also allocated extra staff to resolve the outstanding queries and updated our guidance materials about completing the return on the [academies accounts return page](#) on GOV.UK. I hope trusts experiencing issues will find these useful.

If you still have questions about registering for and setting up the online form, please email [formshelp@fasst.org.uk](mailto:formshelp@fasst.org.uk). If you have any other questions about the accounts return, please email [academy.questions@education.gov.uk](mailto:academy.questions@education.gov.uk).

We are very grateful to those who have persevered with the system and offered valuable feedback about their experience of setting up and using the new online return. We will use this feedback as part of a full review of the full accounts return process in order to learn important lessons for future data collection exercises.

Yours faithfully

**Peter Lauener**

Chief Executive, Education Funding Agency