

SAMPLE REPORT — Public Sector Bookkeeper. This is a real, unedited example of what a £9.99 report contains. Get your own at pekanga-risk-ai.vercel.app.

DISPLACES

Bookkeeping in the public sector is not secure in its current form: the repetitive core of the role is already being automated, and the trend is accelerating.

Task breakdown

Manual data entry of invoices, receipts, and transactions

HIGH

already happening

Invoice capture and transaction entry are already being handled by tools like Dext and Copilot for Finance, meaning this specific task is shrinking in most finance teams right now.

Bank reconciliation

HIGH

already happening

Automated reconciliation is standard in most accounting software already, leaving bookkeepers to handle only the edge cases, which represent a fraction of the original task volume.

Producing routine financial reports and summaries

HIGH

already happening

The mechanical production of routine reports is already automated in most public sector finance systems, though explaining what the numbers mean still requires human judgment.

Maintaining and updating ledgers and account codes

MEDIUM

2-3 years

Public sector coding rules are complex enough that full automation is not yet reliable, but within a few years AI classification will handle most routine coding decisions, leaving only exceptions and governance sign-off.

Liaising with budget holders and resolving finance queries

LOW

5+ years out

Direct human communication with budget holders and non-finance colleagues remains one of the most durable parts of this role, and the part most worth investing in.

Your current role salary

Live salary data not yet available for this role

Alternative careers

Finance Business Partner

TRANSFORMS

Your existing knowledge of public sector finance gives you a credible foundation, and this role shifts the emphasis toward the human judgment and stakeholder communication skills that AI cannot replicate.

Route: CIMA or CIPFA part-qualification (both offer public sector pathways) combined with internal secondment or project work with a budget-holding team to build advisory experience.

NHS Integrated Care Boards • Local authority finance directorates • Central government departments such as HMRC or DHSC

Live salary data not yet available for this role

Payroll Administrator

DISPLACES

Your numeracy and admin background transfer directly, and payroll has a compliance dimension that slows automation compared to pure bookkeeping.

Route: CIPP Foundation Degree in Payroll Management or the CIPP Payroll Technician Certificate, both widely recognised by UK employers and completable while working.

NHS Shared Business Services • Local government HR and payroll shared services • Larger housing associations with in-house payroll teams

Entry £37,405 • Mid £48,980 • Top £54,552+ (Senior range)

Management Accountant

TRANSFORMS

Doubling down on finance qualifications turns your existing ledger knowledge into a more analytical and advisory skill set that sits above the layer AI is automating fastest.

Route: CIMA qualification is the most direct route from bookkeeping, with exemptions available for prior learning. CIPFA is specifically respected within UK public sector finance.

NHS trusts and foundation trusts • Local councils and combined authorities • Government agencies such as the Environment Agency or Companies House

Entry £38,696 • Mid £50,062 • Top £80,000+ (Top earners)

Next 90 days

1. Request a meeting with your line manager or finance team lead specifically to ask which automation tools are being piloted or planned in your organisation. Knowing the timeline internally is more useful than general market predictions.
2. Spend two to three hours exploring the CIMA and CIPFA websites, compare their public sector pathways and exemptions, and request an information pack or attend a free online open event. Both organisations run these regularly and you can find dates on their websites now.
3. Identify one budget holder or operational manager you already deal with and proactively ask if you can sit in on a budget review meeting to observe how financial information is used for decisions. This is the work that will not be automated and you need exposure to it now.
4. Set up a free trial of Xero or use a demo environment for Sage Intacct to understand how automated reconciliation and reporting actually work in practice. Understanding the tools that are replacing your current tasks will help you position yourself as someone who can oversee them rather than someone displaced by them.

Your self-assessment is accurate: a significant portion of what you do daily is already being automated, and that will continue. The honest position is that bookkeeping as a standalone role in the public sector will shrink over the next five years, not disappear overnight, but shrink. The practical response is to move deliberately toward the parts of finance work that require human judgment, stakeholder communication, and accountability, and to get a qualification that signals that transition to employers. Acting now while you are employed is considerably easier than acting after a restructure.

Pekanga provides general career guidance based on AI analysis and public labour market data. It is not regulated financial or careers advice, and does not replace a conversation with a qualified adviser for major decisions. This is a sample report; results are AI-generated and personalised to the exact role and context entered at pekanga-risk-ai.vercel.app. (c) Pekanga Ltd.