

## Annual Assurance Statement October 2022

We the Management Committee confirm that following a period of self-assessment and consideration of the range of information provided by staff, we have sufficient evidence to conclude that to the best of our knowledge we comply with our legislative and regulatory requirements, including those set out in the Standards of Governance and Financial Management, and that we are satisfied that there are no areas of material non-compliance.

The bank of evidence collated by staff to underpin our Annual Assurance Statement is detailed in a written Assurance Statement - Continuous Review and Improvement Plan (AS-CRIP) to ensure we continue to remain compliant and that a continuous improvement plan is in place to support this.

As a direct result of Covid 19 and another mitigating factor, LHA did not meet our statutory duty over the past year to complete two gas safety checks within their anniversary dates. An explanation for both failures was communicated to the SHR through our ARC submission and a separate correspondence. As both failures were for external reasons out with the Association's control and rectified as soon as practicable LHA do not consider this a material non-compliance.

LHA are working towards increasing our current SHQS percentage within our stock portfolio focusing primarily on element 11 (Electrical Installations) & 45 (Safe Electrical Systems) of the Scottish Housing Quality Standards. For these elements within the SHQS, LHA have been directly impacted by Covid 19 through the decline in available contractor resources and the reduction in obtaining access to residents' properties. Since restrictions have been lifted, LHA have been working to increase the number of properties receiving an EICR by way of increasing our pool of external partners, which includes the appointment of a new Electrical Contractor. We aim to have all outstanding properties completed as soon as practicable.

LHA hold the safety of our tenants as a key priority, and we will continue to take every available measure to deliver homes that are safe and secure for our tenants to live in. This was evidenced with our strategy and approach to meeting our legal requirements and achieving 100% compliance within our stock in relation to the new fire safety laws (LD2).

As a Committee we are assured that we are working towards having appropriate systems for the collection of equalities data. We are assured that we are working towards using this data to take account of equality and human rights issues in our decisions, policy-making and day-to-day service delivery.

We recognise that we are required to notify the SHR of any changes in our compliance during the year and are assured that we have effective arrangements in place to enable us to do so.

In reviewing our compliance with the Regulatory Framework, we have reviewed the actions identified in the AS-CRIP and we are satisfied, to the best of our knowledge, that there are no material issues impacting our compliance with the Regulatory Framework.

We approved our Annual Assurance Statement at the Committee Meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022. I sign this statement on behalf of the Committee.

Signed (LHA Chairperson):



Date: 25/10/2022