



Our Annual Assurance Statement

We comply with the regulatory requirements set out in Chapter 3 of the Scottish Housing Regulator's (SHR) Framework, with the exception of those areas we set out below.

We:

- **Achieve all but the following standards and outcomes in the Scottish Social Housing Charter for tenants, people who are homeless and others who use our services:**

4. Quality of Housing

As of 31 March 2024, 79.23% of Aberdeenshire Council housing stock met the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS). We had expected a bigger increase in compliance in 2023/24, but an issue with electrical safety certificates (EICR) was found in March 2024. Properties inspected before December 2015 had certificates recommending re-inspection in 10 years and these dates, rather than the 5-year renewal cycle now required for SHQS, had been recorded as the recertification due date. The impact was that properties that were otherwise SHQS compliant failed on this aspect. However, this has now been rectified bringing them back to SHQS standard and the major remaining reason for non-compliance is the requirement for properties to meet Energy Efficiency Standards in Social Housing (ESSH) in order to meet the SHQS. We currently project that 83.12% of properties will meet SHQS by the end of 2024/25. About 1700 properties (13% of housing stock) are currently exempt from ESSH, therefore we will consider that this outcome has been met when 87% of our housing stock meet the SHQS.

- **Comply with our legal obligations relating to housing and homelessness, equality and human rights, and tenant and resident safety, with the exception of the areas set out below:**

◆ Gas Servicing and Maintenance.

There is currently an annual gas safety certificate in place for each property. However, there has been one recent failure to renew by the target date. Although the affected property did have a combustion analysis check within target, the gas safety certificate was not renewed within the target time and was 15 days overdue when completed due to an administrative error regarding the status of a certificate. Procedures have been changed with the contractor and inhouse teams to ensure that this does not happen again.



- **Aberdeenshire Council can also confirm that we have rectified the following issue reported in our 2023/24 Charter Return:**

- ◆ **Electrical Safety Testing**

Aberdeenshire Council reported a failure to renew a significant number of EICR certificates in our 2023/24 ARC return, meaning that these properties did not meet the SHQS at the end of the year. We confirm that as at the start of October 2024, this issue has been addressed and we consider that we currently meet our obligations with regard to electrical safety.

We confirm that we have seen and considered sufficient evidence to give us this assurance.

We confirm that our Annual Assurance Statement was approved at the meeting of Communities Committee on the 7th of November 2024.

I sign this statement on behalf of the Committee.

Chair's Signature:

Date: