

ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT
TO THE SCOTTISH HOUSING REGULATOR

In this Annual Assurance Statement, the Board of Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association confirms that LSHA is working towards compliance.

Following our identification of non-compliance with some aspects of our constitutional requirements in 2022, LSHA is working to embed improvements in governance and develop organisational practice to eliminate the risk of this reoccurring.

Additionally, the Board of the Association commissioned an independent review of compliance with the Regulatory Framework. The Board established a working group to oversee the conduct of the review and the development of a revised approach to LSHA's assurance processes, including the building of a comprehensive, accessible evidence bank.

Having considered the initial independent assessment and our review of the evidence, the Board is unable to confirm full assurance with all of the requirements of the Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management and Chapter Three of the Regulatory Framework. We are implementing a comprehensive Action Plan to address the specific areas of non-compliance and we aim to achieve full compliance by October 2024. The delivery of the Action Plan is being overseen by the Board and a working group of Board members, supported by the CEO. We have shared the Action Plan with the SHR and remain in regular contact with our Regulation Manager.

Whilst we meet our tenant safety duties in terms of water safety, asbestos and damp and mould, lack of contractor capacity means we do not comply with our legal obligation to provide current Electrical Inspection Certificates for all properties. We are actively pursuing a range of means to achieve compliance, including procurement and employment, and are prioritising inspections based on a robust risk assessment. We aim to restore EICR full compliance by 30 June 2024.

We are developing our processes for the collection and use of equalities data and the adoption of a human rights approach to our work. We will take a Human Rights approach to a review of our Equalities Strategy in early 2024.

In all other respects the Members of the Board have seen and considered appropriate evidence to support assurance in its overall compliance with:

- All relevant regulatory requirements set out in Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework;
- All relevant standards and outcomes in the Scottish Social Housing Charter;
- All relevant legislative duties;
- The Standards of Governance and Financial Management; and

We recognise that we are required to notify the SHR of any changes in our compliance during the course of the year and we are confident that we have the necessary arrangements in place to do so.

The Board confirmed its strong commitment to ensuring that LSHA is able to evidence full compliance as soon as possible and agreed the terms of this Annual Assurance Statement on **26 October 2023**.

Vice Chairperson
