

Appendix 1

Annual Assurance Statement 2023



Blackwood Homes and Care submits this Annual Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator. The Board confirms we have considered Chapter 3 of the Scottish Housing Regulatory Framework that sets out the Regulatory Requirements and the Standards of Governance and Financial Management for RSLs. The Board has considered supporting evidence of the assurance systems and processes that support compliance with the requirements. This includes that we:

- Achieve all the standards and outcomes in the Scottish Social Housing Charter for tenants, people who are homeless and others who use our services.**
- Comply with our legal obligations relating to housing and homelessness and human rights, and tenant and resident safety.**
- Comply with the Standards of Governance and Financial Management for RSLs.**

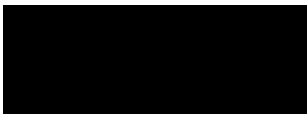
The Board considers that, while still currently compliant, in view of the findings of the Strategic Financial Review commissioned by the Chief Executive in 2023/24, and the potential risk to our future compliant position in Q1 2024, there is improvement needed under Standard 3, *'the RSL manages its resources to ensure its financial well-being, while maintaining rents at a level that tenants can afford to pay and in particular guidance point reference 3.5.'*

A Notifiable Event has been submitted and we are fully committed to transparent engagement with the Regulator about this event. We will notify them of the improvements being made and planned.

The Board also notes that, while still compliant with the requirements, Blackwood will also take steps to improve our approach to equality (including capturing and recording equality monitoring information) and human rights and reporting on tenant and resident safety in the next year.

Board approved our Annual Assurance Statement on 24 October 2023.

Signed on behalf of the Blackwood Homes and Care Board:

Chair's Name:	Julie McDowell
Chair's Signature:	
Date:	24 October 2023