

Places for People Scotland Annual Assurance Statement

Places for People Scotland is the trading name of Castle Rock Edinvar Housing Association Ltd.

The Board of Places for People Scotland undertakes cyclical assessments of compliance with all aspects of the Scottish Housing Regulator's Regulatory Framework, and associated requirements.

This is achieved via self-assessments of compliance, with comprehensive supporting evidence provided to Board, including performance data, specialist advice, and internal audit work.

More generally, the Chair, Board, and Audit and Risk Committee meet often with the Places for People Scotland Director outside of the board cycle, to talk through strategic and operational matters more informally.

Through this, Places for People Scotland Board confirms that the organisation materially complies with:

- all relevant regulatory requirements set out in section 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

A self-assessment of the degree of compliance with the Standards of Governance and Financial Management, based on a toolkit provided by the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations, was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee at its February 2025 meeting, and Board at its May 2025 meeting, where it was approved.

Further to this, the Places for People Regulation Team undertook self-assessment activity against the other regulatory requirements. This work was shared with Board in August 2025, to support the draft Annual Assurance Statement. Whilst areas of improvement had been identified during its review, no material areas of non-compliance were found. All assessments of compliance are founded on an evidence-based methodology, to provide the assurance that the Board and Audit and Risk Committee require.

The Board also confirms that the organisation meets all duties in relation to tenant and resident safety. It has obtained appropriate assurance about compliance with all relevant safety requirements, including gas safety; electrical safety; water safety; fire safety; asbestos; damp and mould; and lift safety.

Key performance indicators in relation to safety compliance are also scrutinised at each Places for People Scotland Board meeting. Audits in relation to tenant and resident safety are carried out by the Group Health, Safety, and Compliance team. The Business Assurance team periodically audits the processes, systems, and governance of the Group Health, Safety, and Compliance team. This work ensures compliance with organisational standards, legislative requirements, and best practice, as well as the reliability and effective management of audits conducted by the subject matter experts.

Regarding damp and mould matters, this is a key focus for us. We have reported damp and mould metrics for a while now, predating regulatory requirements. We have a dedicated team in place to deal with instances, now with its own bespoke Key Performance Indicator dashboard. We are working hard to

ensure alignment in Scotland, by way of fostering good practice, with the requirements of Awaab's Law in England, and we will carefully track our degree of compliance when the Law begins. We know that it will be a challenge for us and the sector, and, collectively, we need to get better at addressing these matters.

During the year, there were some delays in completing a minority of gas safety checks. The primary reasoning for delays were due to human error relating to on-boarding of new build properties. This was swiftly identified when it became apparent, then rectified and is now fully resolved.

We confirm that we have effective systems in place to monitor and report any changes in our compliance to the Scottish Housing Regulator throughout the year. We ensure that all regulatory returns and submissions are completed in a timely and accurate way.

This Statement was approved by the Places for People Scotland Board on 20 August 2025 and is submitted and published in accordance with regulatory expectations.

Pamela Scott
Chair