

Scottish Housing Regulator
Buchanan House
58 Port Dundas Road
Glasgow
G4 0HF

Monica Patterson
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
(SERVICES FOR COMMUNITIES)

Date: 26th November 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Property Maintenance
Penston House
Macmerry Industrial Estate
Macmerry
EH33 1EX

East Lothian Council – Annual Assurance Statement

Subject to the areas detailed below, we can confirm that the Council complies with the regulatory requirements set out in Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework. This includes that we:

- ❖ Achieve all of 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, equality and human rights, and tenant and resident safety.

The following areas are highlighted:

Annual Gas Safety Inspections

Properties where tenants were shielding for Covid-19 purposes from 23 March 2020 led to access being denied for the annual gas safety check. All properties unable to be accessed were re-booked in accordance with HSE & Gas Safe advice. These properties were all accessed by 24 September 2020 and at this date we again became fully compliant. This was due in full to Covid-19.

Reporting against all the protected characteristic groupings

We do not currently collect and hold data for all of the protected characteristics specified by the Equality Act 2010. In dealing with the pandemic, both operationally and in developing new ways of working, the Council has been unable to advance work around the data capture and reporting against all of the protected characteristic groups under the new regulatory framework. It is understood that the SHR will not begin measuring this until April 2021 and the Council is now developing its application forms and IT systems to attempt to meet this target date. This is due in part to Covid-19.

General

Although other services were restricted because of the Scottish Government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, we do not view these restrictions to be in breach of the regulatory framework.

We confirm that we have seen and considered appropriate evidence to support the level of assurance.

We approved our Annual Assurance Statement at our Audit and Governance Committee on 24 November 2020.

I sign this statement on behalf of East Lothian Council's Audit and Governance Committee.

Yours sincerely

Duncan Stainbank
Service Manager – Internal Audit