

## ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT 2021

The Management Committee of Forth Housing Association has carried out a comprehensive review of compliance with the Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management and the requirements of Chapter Three of the Regulatory Framework.

The evidence bank combines reports, policies, advice and information which the Management Committee monitors and oversees on an ongoing basis throughout the year to provide continuous assurance.

From the evidence reviewed we were assured of compliance in most areas; however, we have identified weaknesses in the following four areas and are working towards compliance.

- Regulatory Standard 2 Guidance 2.5 – Delays in giving information to SHR
- Regulatory Standard 4 Guidance 4.2 – Holding Senior Officer to account
- Regulatory Standard 5 Guidance 5.4 – Managing conflicts of interest
- Regulatory Standard 6 Guidance 6.7 – Ensuring Senior Officer has necessary skills

We are assured, through our ongoing satisfaction surveys, that these acknowledged weaknesses have not impacted adversely on the high quality services enjoyed by our tenants.

An improvement plan is currently being prepared with actions to address these weaknesses, this plan will include timescales, actions, and evidence of improvement. The Management Committee will continue to engage with SHR on these issues.

We are also assured that whilst we collect and report on equalities data for applicants, we are working towards having appropriate systems in place for the collection of equalities data for all other activity. We are assured that we are working towards using this data to take account of equality and human rights issues in our decisions, policy-making and day-to-day service delivery. To that end we are creating a specific equalities action plan.

As Chair, I was authorised by the Management Committee at a meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to sign and submit this Annual Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator. This statement will be uploaded to the Association's website.

Gordon Mason

Chair Forth Housing Association