



Lister Housing Co-operative Ltd
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ASSURANCE STATEMENT 2022

On behalf of the Management Committee of Lister Housing Co-operative, I give assurance that to the best of our knowledge, Lister complies with:

- all of the relevant requirements set out at chapter 3 of the Framework;
- all relevant standards and outcomes in the Scottish Social Housing Charter;
- all relevant legislative duties; and
- the Standards of Governance and Financial Management.

We have made this assessment having seen and considered appropriate evidence to support the level of assurance we and yourselves desire.

During this period we have kept under close review the ongoing impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic upon us, our tenants, our contractors and others, putting in place measures to mitigate risks as necessary whilst maintaining our services to our tenants. We have followed local and national guidelines in respect of Covid-19.

We have also closely monitored the impact of the cost of living crisis on our tenants, and have been successful in applying for external funding, in order to provide them with practical support in relation to managing rising fuel costs, as well as offering access to specialist services in relation to welfare rights and debt advice, and signposting to other advice and support services.

Our Management Committee has successfully held both virtual and blended meetings, and we held a live AGM and SGM in September, conducting all required business fully. The SGM approved the adoption of the 2020 Model Rules, which had been amended to incorporate feedback from the FCA in relation to the version considered at the previous SGM, and also to incorporate recently issued SFHA guidance for fully mutual co-operatives. We will now submit these to the FCA and notify yourselves when they give us approval.

We continue to have a 100% gas safety check record, and have completed whole-house electric checks/ installed smoke detector systems that meet the new legislation for all our tenants.

We continue to build capacity with our contractors to tackle the difficult issues of improving the energy efficiency and EPC rating of our hard-to-heat, hard-to-treat, pre-1919 tenemental properties. We have put in place a range of solutions to apply where appropriate, including secondary glazing, and whole house floor insulation in flats with solid concrete floors. Whilst we anticipate challenges in relation to fully achieving EESSH2 compliance to B-rating levels, given our properties and various legislative, physical and technical difficulties, we are considering how best to work towards meeting these requirements, and await the findings of the current review of EESSH2.

Established 1976.

Registered with the Scottish Housing Regulator HAC 150. A Registered Society 1876R(S).
A member of the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations and Employers in Voluntary Housing.

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On the topics of Equalities and Human Rights we believe we comply with the law and with the Regulatory Framework. We have worked through the guidance on Equalities data gathering and decided on our approach, collaborating closely with our ARCHIE colleagues, and sharing ideas for good practice, as well as with our Data Protection Officer, in order to ensure compliance with data protection legislation. Based on this work we are implementing our first equalities related data collection exercise. We wish to gather useful information on these aspects to assist in improving and targeting service provision in the future to any specific identified needs of our tenants.

We are awaiting guidance on a human rights approach to housing. We believe that the way we deliver services is consistent with a human rights approach, but we will review this area when the guidance is available, and consider it carefully in relation to our own approach.

In relation to the recruitment and induction of a new CEO, following a carefully planned handover process, a positive start has been made during the CEO's first year in post, and it is anticipated that he will continue to work with the Committee, staff and tenants to progress the good work of the co-operative into the future.

Overall, we do not believe that we are materially non-compliant in any significant way and we continue to use an internal Action Plan to progress actions arising from this AS review process.

This statement was agreed by the Management Committee at its meeting of 25 October 2022 and signed by the Chair-person, Louise Alexander.

25 October 2022