

## **Lochaber Housing Association – HAL151**

### Assurance Statement 2020

In considering our compliance with our legal and regulatory requirements in 2020, we have taken account of the considerable impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and consequent business, economic and social disruption. We have complied and continue to comply fully with the temporary changes to legislation and continue to follow national and local policy and requirements including in respect of health and safety, physical distancing, travel, office opening, use of PPE, application of Test and Protect requirements and indoor gatherings.

We are confident that the measures that we have put in place and the contingency planning that we have implemented have ensured that we are able to continue to meet our responsibilities to our tenants, service users, regulators and funders. Where we have adopted revised standards of service delivery, we have communicated changes clearly to our tenants and are maintaining the necessary records to ensure a smooth resumption of normal service levels when possible.

We continue to monitor our business plan, budget and financial assumptions in the context of the ongoing emergency situation and associated business interruption. Our Business Plan reflects the regulatory guidance that was current at the time of its preparation and we will take account of updated regulatory advice as we monitor and review our Business Plan in the context of the changed situation.

The Board of Lochaber Housing Association confirms that we have reviewed and assessed a comprehensive bank of evidence to support this Statement and we have gained the necessary assurance that we require to confirm that Lochaber Housing Association complies with the Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management and the requirements of Chapter three of the Regulatory Framework (2019).

The evidence which supports this Statement includes:

- Reports about performance in key areas including finance, service delivery, asset management, development and risk
- Key governance documents including Board and Audit Committee papers and Minutes
- Internal and External Audit Reports
- Advice from external and specialist advisers
- Reports from our Agents and our subsidiary
- Tenant Scrutiny Reports
- Benchmarking Information
- Reports, advice and information from senior staff

The Board has been actively involved in the development and assessment of the evidence bank which brings together information that the Board monitors and oversees on an ongoing basis throughout the year. We are satisfied that Lochaber Housing Association has effective measures in place to provide the Board with the information it needs to be assured of continuous compliance and to enable us to

identify any changes to our compliance in order to make the necessary notifications to the SHR.

In assessing the evidence in year 1 we adopted an improvement focus which, we continue to maintain. This focus has enabled us to develop our Improvement Action Plan and during the year we have made substantive progress in implementing the previously identified improvements.

We have reviewed the identified actions in the improvement plan and are satisfied that all are intended to deliver effective improvements to enhance our current arrangements, but none of these are material to our current compliance with the Regulatory Framework.

In reviewing the evidence and assessing compliance, we have taken account of good practice advice and we have obtained external support to provide us with additional assurance that our approach is effective and robust.

We confirm that this Assurance Statement is being published on our website on the same date that it is submitted to the SHR.

As Chair, I was authorised by the Board at a meeting held on 02<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 to sign and submit this Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator, which confirms that Lochaber Housing Association is compliant with the requirements of the Regulatory Framework 2019.

Andrew Carr

\_\_\_\_\_ (Chair) 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020