

Lochaber Housing Association – HAL151

Assurance Statement 2022

In considering our compliance with our legal and regulatory requirements in 2022, we have taken account of the continued albeit greatly reduced impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and consequent business, economic and social disruption. Where services had been temporarily suspended these recommenced as soon as restrictions were lifted, and it was safe to do so.

We are confident that the measures that were put in place and the contingency planning which we had implemented have ensured that we were able to continue to meet our responsibilities to our tenants, service users, regulators and funders.

This year the Board adopted a revised approach to reviewing the Regulatory Standards and gaining assurance. This approach will be audited by our Internal Auditor in the Spring of 23.

The evidence bank combines reports, policies, advice and information which the Board monitors and oversees on an ongoing basis throughout the year to provide continuous assurance that Lochaber Housing Association is compliant. Additionally, the evidence bank incorporates relevant documents and information that contribute to our assurance and which form the structure of Lochaber Housing Association's business and governance activities.

We have obtained external support to provide us with additional assurance that our approach is effective and robust.

In reviewing compliance, we have adopted an improvement focus and have also identified a number of improvement actions which we will progress during the course of the year. To support effective implementation, these actions form an Improvement Action Plan which will be monitored by the Board at agreed intervals to ensure successful achievement.

The Board of Lochaber Housing Association is satisfied that, to the best of our knowledge, Lochaber Housing Association is compliant with the requirements of Chapter Three of the Regulatory Framework and the Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management. We have gained this assurance from a review of a comprehensive bank of evidence and from our ongoing oversight and scrutiny of Lochaber Housing Association's affairs throughout the year (2021-22).

We are assured that Lochaber Housing Association has the necessary arrangements in place to identify any risks to compliance in the course of the conduct of our business and governance arrangements.

In reviewing our compliance with the Regulatory Framework, we are assured that we are working towards having appropriate systems in place for the collection of equalities data. 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.

As Chair, I was authorised by the Board at a meeting held on 20th October 2022 to sign and submit this Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator.

_____ (Chair) 20th October 2022