



Midlothian Council Assurance Statement 17 November 2020

Midlothian Council complies with duties, obligations, and responsibilities placed on landlords by legislation and through statutory guidance and is working towards delivering good outcomes set out in the Scottish Social Housing Charter for tenants, people who are homeless and others who use our services.

The one exception to this is in relation to five breaches of The Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2017, where four families were placed in unsuitable accommodation for more than seven days during October 2019 (three households) and December 2019 / January 2020 (one household. As this household moved to a different room within the emergency accommodation it has been reported as 2 separate breaches in accordance with Scottish Government guidance). The underlying reason for all of these breaches was a lack of suitable available temporary accommodation. The Order places a limit of seven days on the time pregnant women and families with dependent children spend in unsuitable temporary accommodation, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

The Council has made significant steps to ending the use of bed and breakfast accommodation as part of its transformation of temporary accommodation services during 2020. The Council's approved Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan sets out a range of initiatives to achieve this by 1st December 2020. As of 31st October 2020 there were 9 single person households residing in bed and breakfast accommodation, compared to 40 households as at 1st August 2020.

I confirm I have seen and considered appropriate information and evidence necessary to give me assurance.

The Annual Assurance Statement was approved at the Council meeting held on 17th November 2020.

Signed:

Date of Signing:

Councillor Stephen Curran, Cabinet Member for Housing Services