

## **Milnbank Housing Association** **Annual Assurance Statement 2019**

This Annual Assurance Statement has been prepared by Milnbank Housing Association (MHA) in accordance with the requirements of the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) as set out in published Statutory Guidance and the current Regulatory Framework.

### **Milnbank Housing Association confirms compliance with:**

- **all regulatory requirements set out in Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework.**
- **all relevant standards in the Scottish Social Housing Charter**
- **all relevant legislative duties**
- **the SHR Standards of Governance and Financial Management**

The published guidance issued by SHR states, “your approach should enable you to reach an objective and evidence-based judgement on compliance, ensuring sufficient evidence and information, and where necessary independent assurance”. The Management Committee recently commissioned an independent review of MHAs compliance with Regulatory Standards and guidance related to governance and financial management. The independent review was undertaken by JH Consulting. The review was submitted to the Management Committee in July 2019 and found MHA to be compliant with regulatory standards. A Supplementary Report was also commissioned in response to comments made by SHR related to the substantive report. The Supplementary Report has provided the Management Committee with further assurance in relation to MHA meeting its regulatory requirements. A development Plan issued with the independent review has been adopted which will deliver improvements in the way compliance is currently achieved. The Management Committee is assured that the independent review has confirmed there are no material or significant areas of non-compliance and is aware of the evidence sources confirming its findings. All information related to the independent review has been submitted to SHR and a timescale agreed by the Management Committee for the accompanying Development Plan.

In addition to the content of the Independent Review, MHA has in place regular and on-going processes to ensure compliance with the Regulatory Framework.

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Where necessary, the Management Committee obtains assurance through external advice and/or validation covering key aspects of MHA activities including:

- Financial Business Planning – external validation
- The Annual Return on the Charter (ARC) – external validation
- Employment and Health & Safety – external advisor
- Legislative, regulatory and general legal advice
- External Audit confirming Financial Statements for 2018/19 were unqualified with no management issues to address
- Scottish Housing Association Pension Scheme (SHAPS) confirmation that MHA deemed to be a “low risk” organisation
- Borrowing arrangements with GB Social Housing and Nationwide in place without Covenant Compliance requirements
- Investors in People Platinum Award and Investors in Young People Gold Award

A comprehensive range of established internal processes exist to regularly monitor key performance indicators covering all aspects of service delivery and risk management. Matters relating to Regulatory Standards covering issues such as committee skills, governance and financial management feature regularly in Management Committee considerations and are most recently commented upon within the independent review previously referred to. On a continuous basis, the Management Committee will obtain assurance that Regulatory Standards are achieved through a robust strategic development, reporting and monitoring structure. This work sits alongside ensuring that the values, objectives and priorities of MHA as a charitable community controlled housing provider are achieved at all times.

The Annual Assurance Statement submitted on behalf of Milnbank Housing Association was agreed by the Management Committee at its meeting held on 22 October 2019. The Statement is publicly available on Milnbank Housing Association’s website and displayed in all of its premises.

Allan Scott,  
Chair.