



# Muirhouse Housing Association

## Annual Assurance Statement 2022

Over the course of 2021/2022 the Association's Board of Management has sought appropriate assurance that the organisation remains compliant with the Scottish Housing Regulator's Regulatory Framework. This has been done through a variety of methods including internal and external audit, Board activities including reports, minutes and training, our assurance working group and appropriate external advice and support.

The Board are satisfied that based upon the foregoing, the Association complies with:

- the regulatory requirements as set out in Chapter 3 of the Scottish Housing Regulator's Regulatory Framework;
- the standards and outcomes in the Scottish Social Housing Charter;
- all relevant legislative duties and statutory obligations; and
- the standards set out in the Standards of Governance and Financial Management.

The outcome of the Options Appraisal concluded in October 2021 confirmed the Board's intention to remain an independent RSL, although at the same time seeking opportunities for greater partnership working with others. Throughout the last twelve months significant work has been undertaken internally including strengthening of the Board through external recruitment exercises, the appointment of a new permanent Chief Executive following an open recruitment exercise and commencement of a full staffing structure review due for completion at the end of 2022. In addition, like all RSLs across the sector we have been managing the challenging external environment which has seen the impacts of Covid, Brexit, economic challenges and other world events which have created financial and operational pressures across a range of areas particularly maintenance and improvement programmes.

Within this Assurance Statement the Board makes particular reference to meeting the relevant obligations placed upon RSLs to ensure tenant safety including the requirement for installing heat and smoke detectors and carrying out electrical wiring inspections in all homes by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Like most RSLs impacts caused by labour and material shortages meant that a small number of homes were completed after 31<sup>st</sup> March however the Association can confirm that all properties do now comply with this requirement.

In 2021-22 the Association carried out extensive work implementing revised governance policies, creation of an assurance working group and production of an assurance action plan which is regularly reviewed by the Board to ensure appropriate progress on actions have taken place.

Earlier in 2022 the guidance for collecting equality data was published and the Association is currently in the process of gathering this data from our tenants through inclusion within a Tenant Satisfaction Survey scheduled to commence later this year.

Despite the challenging environment the Association has ensured that it has sought to meet all service, legislative, regulatory and governance requirements outlined within the Scottish Housing Regulator's Regulatory Framework.

The Board confirms that it has reviewed and assessed appropriate evidence and to the best of its knowledge and belief supports this level of assurance.

The Association confirms that this Assurance Statement is being published on its website on the same date that it is being submitted to the Scottish Housing Regulator.

The Association recognises that it is required to notify the Scottish Housing Regulator of any changes in its compliance during the year and the Board is assured that there are effective systems in place to enable it to do so.

This Annual Assurance Statement was considered and approved by the Board on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and signed by the Chair on behalf of the Board.

Signed by:

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the Chairperson.

Iain Strachan, Chairperson

**For and on behalf of the Board of Management of Muirhouse Housing Association**

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022