

# Paragon Housing Association Limited

## Annual Assurance Statement – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022

### Annual Assurance Statement

The Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) requires that all registered social landlords produce an Annual Assurance Statement in relation to compliance with Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework including Standards of Governance & Financial Management. This is the fourth Annual Statement produced by Paragon Housing Association.

### Gaining Assurance

The Management Committee has carried out a review of compliance with the Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management and the requirements of Chapter Three of the Regulatory Framework.

The evidence bank considered by the Management Committee combines reports, policies, advice and information which the Management Committee monitors and oversees on an ongoing basis throughout the year to provide continuous assurance that Paragon Housing Association is compliant. Additionally, the evidence bank incorporates relevant documents and information that contribute to our assurance and which form the structure of the Association's business and governance activities. An internal audit of our approach to gaining assurance was carried out earlier this year. It concluded "the approach in place provides the necessary evidence and assurance to the Board to confirm an accurate position regarding the reporting of compliance with the Regulatory Standards".

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. We have reviewed the documents and plans currently in place.

We are assured that Paragon Housing Association is compliant with the Regulatory Standards and Regulatory Framework requirements, with the following exception, which we are reporting as a material non compliance. We have taken advice from SHR and SFHA on the reporting of this issue.

We have been unable to complete all of our Electrical Installation Condition Reports (EICR's) which were due by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. This was the result of a variety of reasons including availability of materials, contractors etc and access issues. We currently have 38 properties which do not have a valid EICR. This represents 2.64% of our housing stock. We have arrangements in place to complete these with a contractor appointed, and on site, to undertake the inspections. Progress has been made since 31st March 2022 in gaining access. All tenants affected have been

notified and offered appointments. However access has still to be gained to a number of properties. Should access not be granted then arrangements will made to enforce access. However we do recognise that there may be tenants' circumstances where it would not be appropriate to gain access by this means and we are providing the necessary support to gain access including working with other agencies.

Given the above, the anticipated completion date is 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022. The Management Committee will receive progress reports.

The Management Committee is not complacent about matters of performance and compliance. 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.

We are satisfied that these actions are intended to deliver effective improvement. We recognise that we are required to notify the SHR of any changes in our compliance during the course of the year and are assured that we have effective arrangements in place to enable us to do so.

## Section 2: Authority

As Chair, I was authorised by the Management Committee at a meeting held on 19th October 2022 to sign and submit this Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator.

Name	Flora Wallace
Designation	Chair
Signature	
Date	
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