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Your ref: RCH AAS 2023
Our ref: AAS 2023
Date: 26th September 2023

The Scottish Housing Regulator
2nd Floor
George House
36 North Hanover Street
Glasgow
G1 2AD

Dear Sir/Madam

Annual Assurance Statement - River Clyde Homes (RCH)

This letter sets out RCH Board's assessment of Business Assurance. The Board is satisfied that, to the best of its knowledge, RCH is compliant with:

- All relevant regulatory requirements as set out in Section Three of the Regulatory Framework
- The Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management
- The relevant standards and outcomes of the Scottish Social Housing Charter
- Our statutory obligations in respect of tenant and resident safety, housing and homelessness and equalities and human rights.

Tenant and Resident Safety has been a focus for the Board during the year. We have gained the necessary evidence-based assurance of our compliance in respect of duties relating to gas, electrical, fire, water and lift safety together with our obligations relating to asbestos, damp and mould.

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 RCH is compliant. Additionally, the evidence bank incorporates relevant documents and information that contribute to our assurance and which form the structure of RCH's business and governance activities. The evidence bank includes assurance from the delivery of the Internal Audit Plan which is undertaken by an external organisation.

In assessing the evidence, we have adopted an improvement focus which has resulted in the creation of an Action Plan which we have begun to implement and will continue to progress during the course of the year. We have reviewed the identified actions in the improvement action plan and are satisfied that all are intended to deliver effective improvement and that none are material to our current compliance with the Framework.

To supplement the ongoing governance of Business Assurance undertaken by the Audit & Risk Committee, the Board also have access to an online portal which holds a repository of evidence supporting Business Assurance compliance. This enables the Board to analyse and review on a real time basis. RCH also implemented a Business Assurance Focus Plan to allow Board members to undertake an in-depth review of the Annual Assurance Compliance Checklist in preparation for our 2023 Annual Assurance Statement submission.

We are assured that River Clyde Homes has the necessary arrangements in place to identify compliance risks in the course of the conduct of our business and governance arrangements. Further assurance has been provided via an Internal Audit review which specifically considered the arrangements in place to ensure compliance with the Regulatory Standards.

In reviewing our compliance with the Regulatory Framework, we are assured that we have established appropriate systems for the collection of equalities data. We are assured that we are using this data to take account of equality and human rights issues in our decisions, policies and service delivery.

As Chair, I was authorised by the Board at a meeting held on 26th September 2023 to sign and submit this Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator.

I confirm that this Assurance Statement is being published on our website on the same date that it is submitted to the SHR.

John Quinn
Chair, RCH Group Board

Date: 26th September 2023