



Rural Stirling Housing Association Annual Assurance Statement 2023

In considering our compliance with our legal and regulatory requirements in 2023, we have taken account of the current economic environment and the cost-of-living crisis and are satisfied that we continue to meet our responsibilities to our tenants, service users, regulators, and funders.

At the time of preparing the Annual Assurance Statement we have a small number of properties that are not fully compliant with SHQS due to Electrical Installation Condition Reports (EICRs) being outstanding. The SHR has advised that due to the numbers involved this was not considered a Notifiable Event and our Board do not feel that this is a material change to our overall level of compliance. We are assured based on the evidence provided that there are no threats to the safety or interests of tenants and customers.

Rural Stirling Housing Association has appropriate assurance, and we are confident that we:

- comply with relevant legislative duties and the regulatory requirements as set out in Chapter 3 of the Regulatory framework.
- comply with the standards and outcomes in the Scottish Social Housing Charter for tenants, people who are homeless and others who use our services.
- **meet all of our duties in relation to tenant and resident safety. In particular, we have gained the necessary evidence-based assurance of our compliance in respect of duties relating to gas, electrical, fire, water, lift safety and our obligations relating to asbestos, and damp and mould.**
- comply with the Scottish Housing Regulator's Standards of Governance and Financial Management.
- **have taken account of the current economic and social environment, and we continue to meet our responsibilities to our tenants, service users, regulators, and funders.**
- **have established appropriate systems for the collection of equalities data and information. 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.

Our Board assesses compliance against the above requirements on a regular basis and considers detailed evidence, together with customer feedback, as part of this assessment. We have adopted an improvement focus and acknowledge that we have some areas where improvements need to be made, however we do not consider these to be material in the context of continuous improvement and have the required strategy and plans in place. To support effective implementation, an **Annual Assurance Action Plan** will be monitored by the Board at agreed intervals to ensure successful achievement.

We have seen and considered the appropriate evidence to give us this assurance and this will be carried out on an ongoing regular basis. The evidence which supports this Statement includes:

- Reports, advice, and information from senior staff
- Reports about performance in key areas including finance, service delivery, asset management, **tenant and resident safety**, development and risk
- Internal and External Audit reports
- Advice from external and specialist advisers
- Tenant feedback and the outcomes from specific consultation
- Data analysis about our tenants and customers
- Benchmarking

In reviewing the evidence and assessing compliance, we have taken account of good practice advice. We have also obtained external support to provide us with additional assurance that our approach is effective and robust.

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.

We approved our Annual Assurance Statement at the meeting of our Board **Thursday 5 October 2023**. We confirm that this Annual Assurance Statement is being published on our website on the same date that it is submitted to the SHR.

I sign this statement on behalf of the Board. As Chair, I was authorised by the Board at the above meeting to sign and submit this Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator.

Mark Griffiths

Chair's signature:

Date: 5 October 2023