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2024 ASSURANCE STATEMENT

On behalf of SBHA's Board of Management, I confirm that we have appropriate assurance that SBHA complies with:

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

The Board of Management is satisfied that, to the best of our knowledge, SBHA is compliant with the requirements of Chapter Three of the Regulatory Framework and the Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management. We have gained this assurance from a review of a comprehensive bank of evidence and from our ongoing oversight and scrutiny of SBHA's affairs throughout the year (2023-24).

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 SBHA is compliant. Additionally, the evidence bank incorporates relevant documents and information that contribute to our assurance and which form the structure of SBHA's business and governance activities. For additional assurance, we have obtained external support from our Internal Auditors that our evidence bank is robust and supports compliance with the Regulatory Standards.

In reviewing our compliance with the Regulatory Framework, we are assured that we have established 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 are satisfied that we 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 and lift safety and our obligations relating to asbestos, damp and mould. We have sought specialist external advice to monitor our compliance in some of these areas and to support our assurance. We have completed an assessment into the potential presence of RAAC in our stock and confirm that none has been identified.

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. To support effective implementation, these actions form an Improvement Action Plan which will be monitored by the Board at agreed intervals to ensure successful achievement. 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.

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 do so.

As Chair, I was authorised by the Board of Management on 29th October 2024 to sign and submit this Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator. This Assurance Statement is being published on our website on the same date that it is submitted to the SHR.

Signed(Chair of SBHA's Board of Management)