



South Bridge House . Whinfield Road . Selkirk . TD7 5DT  
Tel: 01750 724444 Fax: 01750 724445

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 (2020-21).

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, our Internal Auditors carried out an assessment of Standards 1 & 3 and determined our approach is effective and efficient.

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.

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.

In considering our compliance with our legal and regulatory requirements in 2021, we have taken account of the considerable impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and consequent business, economic and social disruption. We have complied with the temporary changes to legislation and continue to follow national and local policy and requirements e.g. in respect of health and safety, physical distancing, travel, office opening, use of PPE, application of Test and Protect requirements and indoor gatherings.

We are confident that the measures that we have put in place and the contingency planning that we have implemented have ensured that we are able to continue to meet our responsibilities to our tenants, service users, regulators and funders. Where we have adopted revised standards of service delivery, we have communicated changes clearly to our tenants and are maintaining the necessary records to ensure a smooth resumption of normal service levels when possible.

Our tenants' safety is paramount, and we are assured that robust plans and programmes are in place to meet our legal responsibilities as a landlord and manage risks. Due to the continued impact of Covid-19, in 2020-21 we were unable to attain access to 9 properties to carry out gas safety checks within the 12-month anniversary date of certification (an additional two since last year's Assurance Statement) due to the tenants not being willing to provide access because of their fears of potential transmission of the coronavirus. We worked with these tenants to reassure them of the safety measures and precautions we take and all our properties now have a valid gas safety certificate.



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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 on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 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 ...Robin Hill.....(*Chair of SBHA's Board of Management*)