

Stirling Council Annual Assurance Statement



We can advise that during 2020/21, Stirling Council's Housing Service complied with all but two of the regulatory requirements as set out in Chapter 3 of the Scottish Housing Regulator's Framework. This confirms that we:

- achieve all of the standards and outcomes in the Scottish Social Housing Charter for tenants, people who are homeless and others who use our services;
- comply with our legal obligations relating to housing and homelessness, equality and human rights, and tenant and resident safety.

We did not materially comply with gas safety regulations. The Council failed to complete 220 of its annual gas safety checks in 2020/21 by the anniversary date. This was a direct result of the Coronavirus pandemic with the Council suspending forced entry for gas servicing throughout the lockdown period as per guidance within the Housing sector. 112 (50.9%) of the failures were completed within a fortnight of the date due with a further 108 requiring a number of letters, contact and support to enable completion. . All Council homes with gas now have up to date gas safety records, following annual safety checks.

We also failed to comply with legal obligations relating to housing and homelessness. The Council breached the Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order 2014 on one occasion in 2020/21. The breach occurred in July 2020 as a result of increased demand for family accommodation during this period. We have taken steps to address this by increasing the number of properties used for temporary accommodation by 104 units to better meet need and reduce the risk of any further breaches.

We will consider the forthcoming guidance on equalities and the right to housing once issued by the Scottish Housing Regulator and associated bodies. We shall then review our policy and processes in order to implement an effective approach to the collection of equalities information. This may include an exercise on collecting data for all protected characteristics. Work is progressing to consider this option and in relation to how we can adopt a human rights approach to our work.

We confirm that we have seen and considered sufficient information and evidence necessary to give us this assurance.

We have taken into consideration the advisory guidance issued by the Scottish Housing Regulator in August 2020 when producing this Annual Assurance Statement. In addition, the Annual Assurance Statement for 2020/21 was considered and agreed by tenant representatives at a meeting of the Housing Advisory Group on 13 August 2021.

The Annual Assurance Statement for 2020/21 was formally approved at the meeting of the Environment and Housing Committee on 16 September 2021.

Signed

Councillor Jim Thomson, Convener, Environment and Housing Committee

