

Stirling Council Annual Assurance Statement

We confirm that in respect of landlord services provided by Stirling Council's Housing Service we have seen and considered sufficient information and evidence necessary to give us this assurance that the Council complies with:

- All relevant standards and outcomes in respect of any tenants, Homeless persons, and other persons who are in receipt of housing services as laid out in Chapter 3 of the Scottish Housing Regulator's Regulatory Framework;

and

- Complies with all but two of our legal obligations relating to equality and human rights, and tenant and resident safety as laid out in Chapter 3 of the Scottish Housing Regulator's Regulatory Framework;

The Council failed to complete 105 of its annual gas safety checks in 2022/23 by the anniversary date and as such did not materially comply with gas safety regulations. This failure was the result of the post Covid period in which forced entries did not commence until November 2022 due to tenants shielding, vulnerabilities and no access. 60 (57.14%) of the failures were completed within a fortnight of the date due with a further 45 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.

The Service recognises the importance for these key areas of tenant safety and are continues to prioritise resources to ensure full compliance in relation to gas, electrical, smoke detection.

We have considered the guidance on equalities and the right to housing issued by the Scottish Housing Regulator and associated bodies. We are in the process of carrying out an equalities profile of all tenants and applicants. This project will be completed by the end of 2023 and the information will be used to inform policy development, strategic priorities and service planning. We are also continuing to develop ideas on how we can adopt a human rights approach to our work.

We have taken into consideration guidance from the Scottish Housing Regulator when producing this Annual Assurance Statement. In addition, the Annual Assurance Statement for 2022/23 was considered by tenant representatives at a meeting of the Housing Advisory Group on 18th August 2023.

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

The Annual Assurance Statement for 2022/23 was formally approved at the meeting of the Community Wellbeing and Housing Committee on 31 August.

Signed

Councillor Gerry McGarvey, Convener, Community Wellbeing and Housing Committee