

Annual Assurance Statement 2021

Introduction

As a Registered Social Landlord (RSL), Tollcross Housing Association is required to submit its annual Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) before the 31st October 2021.

In considering our compliance with our legal and regulatory requirements in 2021, we have taken full account of the impact of COVID 19 on our services. We have complied with the temporary changes to legislation and continue to follow national and local policy requirements.

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 meet our responsibilities to our tenants, regulators, and funders. Where we have adapted revised standards of service delivery, we have communicated changes clearly to our tenants.

Assurance

Our Assurance Statement takes account of sector guidance, with the Management Committee evaluating the Association's compliance with our Regulatory requirements, the Standards of Governance & Financial Management (RSGFM) and our legislative duties (now referred to as the Regulatory requirements), which are contained within the SHR's Framework, Chapter 3 Regulatory Requirements.

The table below summarises our compliance with the Regulatory requirements:

Regulatory Requirements	Compliant?
Assurance & Notification	Yes
Scottish Social Housing Charter (SSHC)	Yes
Tenant & Service User Redress	Yes
Whistleblowing	Yes
Equality & Human Rights	Yes
Statutory Guidance	Yes
Organisational Details & Constitution	Yes
Regulatory Standards of Governance & Financial Management (RSGFM)	Yes
Legislative Duties	Yes

In determining our compliance with the Regulatory requirements our evaluation process considered:

- Whether we, as a Governing Body, are sufficiently assured through self-assessment, ongoing oversight and scrutiny that we comply with the Regulatory requirements and are sufficiently confident that we can pass that assurance on to our stakeholders.

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- Any areas of material non-compliance with the Regulatory requirements.
- Any areas for improvement.
- Impact of COVID 19

The Association can report that to the best of our knowledge we have no areas of material non-compliance with the Regulatory requirements.

We can evidence our compliance with supporting documentation, including independent review that we commissioned in terms of our compliance with the RSGFM. Our other self-assurance activities include for example, internal audit, independent surveys, in-house assessments and other internal organisational controls and checks. The outcome of our self-assessment, ongoing oversight and scrutiny demonstrates our compliance with the Regulatory requirements.

Equalities

We can also confirm that we have appropriate plans to implement an effective approach to the collection of equalities information from April 2022 and that we have started to consider how we can adopt a human rights approach in our work.

We are conscious that the SHR, CIH Scotland the Scottish Human Rights Commission are due to produce guidance on some aspects of the human rights approach to housing. We look forward to implementing this, and any other relevant guidance to bolster and improve our current framework.

Next Steps

We will keep our Assurance Statement under review and will notify the SHR and our customers if we become materially non-compliant with the Regulatory requirements prior to issuing our next annual Assurance Statement in October 2022.

We are in the process of implementing a small number of areas for improvement, which we have identified from an external review of Governance against the SHR regulatory standards of Governance and Financial Management. No areas of material non compliance were identified through this review, which took place in September/October 2021.

Our Assurance Statement is publicly available on our Website and is displayed in our office.

Finally, I can confirm as Chairperson of Tollcross Housing Association, I was authorised by the Management Committee at a meeting held on 25th October 2021 to sign and submit this Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator.

Andrea Bell, Chairperson

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