

## Annual Assurance Statement 2022

### 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 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

### 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.
- 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.

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At the time of preparing this statement, we have considered the potential for a rent freeze or rent increase cap being enforced by the Scottish Government and if this is the case we shall develop a suitable strategy to manage this.

### **Equalities and Human Rights**

For reporting year 2022, we have chosen to adopt anonymous equalities data collection.

This means that all information collected will not be identifiable to the data subject (tenant/staff/management committee member). The benefits of this method of collection are that we are not at risk of sensitive data being breached inadvertently, as well as a reduction in the overhead to collect and store the data we receive. It is expected that we will refresh this data every two or three years. This method of data collection is in line with the requirements of the Equalities Act of 2010, and in line with SFHA guidance. All data subjects still have the option to contact us directly if they wish for their equalities information to be used in a way that supports the specific service they receive from us.

We will review this decision on an annual basis and may switch to linked data collection if we feel it will improve the service we provide and that the data we collect is protected in line with UK GDPR.

We can also confirm that we are considering how we can adopt a human rights approach in our work.

### **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 2023.

We have implemented the one area identified for improvement, 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 August/September 2022.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 to sign and submit this Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator.

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**Andrea Bell, Chairperson**

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