

**REPORT TO: BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF SANCTUARY
SCOTLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

REPORT FROM: DIRECTOR - SANCTUARY SCOTLAND

DATE OF REPORT: 11 AUGUST 2020

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents self assessment work in relation to Whistleblowing and Equality and Human Rights to give board members the assurance that Sanctuary Scotland Housing Association Limited (Sanctuary Scotland) is compliant with Chapter Three of the Regulatory Framework in this area.

2. Background

- 2.1 Following the review of their regulatory framework the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) introduced the requirement for all Social Landlords to submit an Annual Assurance Statement providing assurance that their organisation complies with the relevant requirements of Chapter 3.
- 2.2 Chapter 3 of the framework primarily covers:
- Assurance and Notification;
 - Scottish Social Housing Charter Performance;
 - Tenants and Service Users Redress;
 - Whistleblowing;
 - Equality and Human Rights;
 - Compliance with and information submission in accordance with key guidance - notifiable events, group structures, consulting tenants where tenant consent is required, financial viability of registered social landlords, determination of accounting requirements, preparation of financial statements;
 - The standards of Governance and Financial Management; and
 - Constitutional requirements.
- 2.3 The first assurance statement was submitted by the end of October 2019 as required. Feedback provided by the SHR confirmed that this covered all the areas required by the statutory guidance.

3. **Assessment of the Whistleblowing and Equality and Human Rights**

3.1 The assessment exercises carried out on the topics above are attached at **Appendices 1 and 2**.

3.2 The National Residents Review Panel have also reviewed and contributed to these assessments.

3.2 Given the level of evidence available against each of the headings it is recommended that the Board of Management consider Sanctuary Scotland to be compliant, with no items of materiality requiring to be highlighted to the SHR.

4. **Appraisal**

4.1 Risk management

4.1.1 RM 3 Governance; Sanctuary Scotland must comply with the Regulatory Framework and the assessment process ensures this can be evidenced and allows the approval and submission of the Annual Assurance Statement.

4.1.2 RM 9 Legislative / Regulatory; signing and submission of the Annual Assurance Statement following completion of a comprehensive self assessment process mitigates the risk of non compliance with SHR framework requirements

4.2 Impact on diversity

4.2.1 The self assessment exercise will evidence compliance with SHR regulation framework in relation to equality and diversity.

4.3 Value for Money

4.3.1 The self assessment exercise will evidence compliance with SHR regulation framework in relation to financial viability.

5. **Recommendations**

5.1 The Board of Management is recommended to:

- Consider the self assessment exercises provided at **Appendix 1 and Appendix 2** and approve that the evidence highlighted confirms that Sanctuary Scotland can be considered to be compliant, with no issues of materiality requiring to be highlighted to the SHR.