

DECISION

Committee:

**Board of Management of Sanctuary
Scotland Housing Association Limited**



Date:

10/08/2021

Agenda Item:

8

Report from:

Director - Sanctuary Scotland

Title: Annual Assurance Statement

Executive Summary: To allow the Board of Management to consider the approach to the annual assurance statement for 2021.

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 Housing Association) is compliant with Chapter Three of the Regulatory Framework in these areas.

2. Background

2.1 Following the review of their regulatory framework, the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) introduced the requirement for all Scottish Landlords to submit an Annual Assurance Statement providing assurance that their organisation complies with the relevant requirements of Chapter Three.

2.2 Chapter Three 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.

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

- 3.1 Assessment exercises were carried out on the topics above. This was discussed by the senior management team at their monthly meeting on 9 June 2021 and 14 July 2021.
- 3.2 A letter was received from the Scottish Housing Regulator in relation to equalities data collection and adopting a human rights approach. This highlights that the Assurance Statement to be submitted by the end of October 2021 should contain re-assurance that we have appropriate plans in place to implement an effective approach to the collection of equalities information and have started to consider how we adopt a human rights approach to our work.
- 3.3 Given the level of evidence available against each of the headings it is recommended that the Board of Management consider Sanctuary Scotland Housing Association to be compliant in both areas, with no items of materiality requiring to be highlighted to the SHR.

4. Appraisal

- 4.1 Risk management
- 4.1.1 RM 4 Governance; Sanctuary Scotland Housing Association must comply with the Regulatory Framework and the assessment process mitigates the risk of meeting requirements in respect of the Annual Assurance Statement.
- 4.1.2 RM 8 Legislative / Regulatory/political; 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 Value for Money
- 4.2.1 The self assessment exercises will evidence compliance with SHR regulation framework in relation to financial viability where relevant.

4.3 Corporate Strategy

4.3.1 Ensuring compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements supports the effective delivery of all four strategic priorities - Engage, Invest, Advance and Grow.

4.4 Customer and/or Employee considerations

4.4.1 The requirements of the Scottish Social Housing Charter will form part of the mapping process to ensure compliance. Any relevant employee considerations are noted in the report.

5. Recommendations

5.1 The Board of Management is asked to consider the self-assessment exercises provided and approve that the evidence highlighted confirms that Sanctuary Scotland Housing Association can be considered to be compliant with regulatory requirements.