

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

REPORT FROM: DIRECTOR - SANCTUARY SCOTLAND

DATE OF REPORT: 14 APRIL 2020

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide feedback from the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) on the Annual Assurance Statement submitted for 2019.
- 1.2 This report also presents self assessment work in relation to Assurance and Notification and Compliance with and submission of information 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 Social 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
 - Constitutional requirements.

3. Feedback from the SHR on 2019 Assurance Statement

- 3.1 At the Board of Management meeting of 17 September 2019 the first annual assurance statement was approved and signed by the Chairperson and submitted to the SHR by the deadline date of 31 October 2019.
- 3.2 The SHR has now provided Registered Social Landlords with feedback on the 2019 submissions and confirms the SHR considers the organisation's statement covered all the areas required by the statutory guidance.

4. Assessment of Assurance and Notification and Compliance with and submitting information in accordance with guidance

- 4.1 The assessment exercises carried out on the topics above are attached at **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2**.
- 4.2 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.

5. Appraisal

- 5.1 Risk management
 - 5.1.1 RM 5 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.
 - 5.1.2 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
- 5.2 Impact on diversity
 - 5.2.1 The self assessment exercise will evidence compliance with SHR regulation framework in relation to equality and diversity.
- 5.3 Value for Money
 - 5.3.1 The self assessment exercise will evidence compliance with SHR regulation framework in relation to financial viability.

6. Recommendations

6.1 The Board of Management is recommended to:

- note the feedback from the SHR; and
- consider the self-assessment exercises and approve that the evidence highlighted confirms that Sanctuary Scotland Housing Association can be considered to be compliant.