

The Caledonia Housing Group – Annual Assurance Statement 2023

The governing bodies within Caledonia Group have reviewed a wide-ranging bank of evidence in the assessment of compliance with regulatory and legislative requirements in preparing the Annual Assurance Statement for 2023. The evidence bank includes the group's policy framework, performance and financial information, improvement and implementation plans from working groups and sub-committees, internal and external audit reports, and reports from other external advisors. The assessment of compliance has also incorporated a risk-based analysis of key themes deemed significant to the Group's operations.

The governing bodies confirm that the Group and each of the individual associations (Caledonia and Cordale) are compliant with:

- Regulatory requirements in Section Three of the Regulatory Framework
- Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management
- The relevant standards and outcomes of the Scottish Social Housing Charter
- Statutory obligations relating to tenant and resident safety, housing and homelessness and equalities and human rights

Equalities and Human Rights

The governing bodies have considered the work undertaken by the Group's Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Strategy Group, including the progress made during the year towards the implementation of the Group's 3 year EDI action plan. The governing bodies are satisfied that an effective approach to the collection of equalities information has been implemented and has been integral in shaping the action plan. The Group's EDI Strategy Group will continue to meet regularly to maintain continuous improvement, to ensure that equalities and human rights considerations are embedded in the work that we do, and to prepare annual reports on progress with the action plan and outcomes achieved.

Tenant and resident safety

The governing bodies recognise the critical importance of safeguarding tenant and resident safety, and as part of our ongoing governance processes receive regular reports and briefings from senior management to obtain assurance as to the effective management of risks in this area. The Group maintains a robust policy framework establishing key responsibilities for assessing and managing risks to tenant & resident safety, and has programmes in place to conduct all relevant safety inspections. Progress has been made to complete the Electrical Installation Condition Reports (EICR) and the installation of smoke and heat detectors, with programmes in place to complete the remaining work. The governing bodies are satisfied that the Group has met all of its duties in relation to tenant & resident safety and is operating in compliance with all relevant safety requirements.

Continuous Improvement

Caledonia Group has adopted an approach to compliance which is based on continuous improvement, and an improvement plan for 2023/24 has been agreed by the governing bodies. Progress towards the implementation of the 2023/24 improvement plan will be monitored as part of the quarterly business performance information provided to the governing bodies.

Compliance Status

There are no significant areas of non-compliance identified with the Regulatory Framework. We recognise that we are required to notify the SHR of any changes in our compliance during the course of the year and are assured that we have effective arrangements in place to do so.

This statement is provided for and on behalf of Caledonia Housing Association Group. The statement has been considered by a Short Life Working Group and each of the governing bodies in the Group have approved the statement.

I have been authorised by the respective governing bodies to sign this Annual Assurance Statement on behalf of the Group.

Signed:

Date:

Tim Goddard
Chair of Caledonia Housing Association