

Annual Assurance Statement

from the Management Committee of Cernach Housing Association – October 2021



Introduction

As a registered social landlord (RSL), Cernach Housing Association is required to submit an Annual Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) before the end of October 2021. This document represents the Statement that the Committee considered and agreed at its meeting on 21 October 2021.

Format of Annual Assurance Statement

There is no set format for the Statement. We have retained the style used for the first submission in 2019 as we believe that it worked well for us and our customers, whilst also meeting the Regulator's expectations. It takes account of sector guidance, with the Committee evaluating the Association's performance in each of the following sections:

- Assurance and notification
- Scottish Social Housing Charter (SSHC) performance
- Tenant and service user redress
- Whistleblowing
- Equality and human rights
- Statutory guidance
- Organisational details and constitution
- Standards of Governance and Financial Management (SGFM)

Each section:

- Notes whether we, as a Management Committee, are sufficiently assured that we comply and, following on, that we are sufficiently confident that we can pass that assurance on to stakeholders
- Indicates where further action may be required because of material non-compliance

The Association can report that there are **no areas of material non-compliance**.

Supporting evidence and additional information

The Association has completed the *toolkit* issued by the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations. This was populated with supporting evidence that we have been gathering over a number of years, including periodic independent reviews. The independent reviews supplement other assurance-related activities, such as internal & external audit, independent surveys, in-house assessments and other internal organisational controls and checks. We would be happy to discuss this with any customer or other stakeholder – please contact our Director, Caroline Jardine on 0141 944 3860 or caroline@cernachha.co.uk, if you would find this useful.

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Please contact a member of staff if you, or anyone you know, would benefit from this**

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A word about the Covid-19 pandemic

To help us understand the impact of Covid-19 on our assurance level, the Scottish Federation of Housing Association issued specific guidance. We confirm that we have taken account of this guidance and the impact on the Association during the pandemic when completing this Statement.

Equalities and human rights

We hope that the way we deliver services and develop policies would generally be consistent with a human rights approach. We know, though, that this is an emerging agenda and that so far there is little in the way of housing-specific guidance. We are aware that Scottish Housing Regulator, the Chartered Institute of Housing in Scotland, and the Scottish Human Rights Commission are due to produce guidance on some aspects of the human rights approach to housing. We look forward to using this, and any other relevant guidance that is produced in the future, to inform our work to review our own approach and consider whether any changes might be needed to our services or policies.

In relation to equalities data collection, we will be considering the recently issued guidance with a view to implementing this by March 2022.

A final word.....

This assurance is given by the Management Committee following review and assessment of a wide range of documentation. Stakeholders can be assured that the Committee takes steps to ensure that the information it is being provided with is robust and accurate and this, in turn, allows us to issue this Statement.

This Statement is publicly available. Any interested party may ask for further information on the supporting evidence as it relates to any of the assertions made in this document. We would be happy to discuss this with you in more detail.

Next steps

The Association will keep this Statement under review and will notify the SHR and our customers if we become aware of any areas of material non-compliance prior to issuing our next Statement in October 2022.

Please contact the Association if you would like to be involved or if you wish more information.

John Brannan – Chairperson

21 October 2021

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📞 0141 944 3860 ♦ 📧 admin@cernachha.co.uk ♦ @CernachHousing  