



## 2021 ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT

The Board of Cairn Housing Association, and as group Parent of Ancho Ltd, is satisfied that Cairn Housing Group is compliant with the requirements of Chapter Three of the Regulatory Framework including:

- The relevant standards and outcomes of the Scottish Social Housing Charter
- All relevant legislative duties
- The Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management

### **Covid-19**

In considering our compliance with our legal and regulatory requirements in 2021 we have taken account of the considerable impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and consequent business, economic and social disruption. We have complied/continue to comply fully with the temporary changes to legislation and continue to follow Scottish Government guidance and requirements e.g. in respect of health and safety, physical distancing, travel, office opening, use of PPE, application of Test and Protect requirements and indoor gatherings.

We are confident that the measures that we have put in place and the contingency planning and updated Service Routemaps that we have implemented have ensured that we are able to continue to meet our responsibilities to our tenants, service users, regulators and funders. Where we have adopted revised standards of service delivery where necessary, we have communicated changes clearly to our staff and tenants, and updated the Regulator, and are maintaining the necessary records to ensure a smooth resumption of normal service levels when possible.

We continue to monitor our business plan, budget and financial assumptions in the context of the ongoing Covid-19 situation and associated business interruption. Our Business Plan reflects the regulatory guidance that was current at the time of its preparation and we will take account of updated regulatory advice as we monitor and review our Business Plan, the risks we face, and the resilience of the organisation.

Gas safety performance has been fully compliant, other than an issue with a small number of properties, where delays were Covid-19 related and as part of new build handovers the first annual service date was missed. All matters are now resolved with compliance certificates.

Our review of Fire Risk Assessments in Courts and Leased properties planned to commence in April 2020 was impacted by Covid-19 and we are continuing to prioritise this work through our revised Health & Safety Strategy action plan.

### **Overall Assurance**

The Board confirms that we have reviewed and assessed a comprehensive bank of evidence to support this Statement and that we have obtained external support to

provide us with additional assurance that our approach is effective and robust. All actions contained in the 2020 improvement plan have been implemented.

The Board of Cairn Housing Association (as group parent) has overseen the assurance exercise and evidence gathering that supports this Statement, with involvement of Board members from Cairn and Ancho, and is satisfied that it is comprehensive and accurate.

In assessing the evidence, we have adopted an improvement focus and will continue to implement the new Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Strategy during the course of the year. We will review any required changes following the anticipated publication of the SHR guidance on Equalities & Human Rights. We are satisfied that the improvement actions are intended to deliver effective improvement and that none are material to our current compliance with the 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 enable us to do so.

As Chair of the Board of Cairn Housing Association, I am authorised to confirm that both Cairn Housing Association, which is the parent RSL, and Ancho Ltd, which is the registered subsidiary, comply with Chapter Three of the Regulatory Framework. This Statement was considered and approved by Board members at a Joint Governing Bodies' Board meeting and is now approved by me on behalf of the Board.

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**Don Jamieson**  
**Chair of Cairn HA**  
**28 October 2021**