

## **Bield Housing and Care Annual Assurance Statement 2025**

The Board of Bield Housing and Care confirms that it has reviewed and assessed a comprehensive bank of evidence to support this Statement that Bield is compliant with:

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

To undertake the self-assessment exercise the Board established a governance working group made up of Board Members, including a tenant Member, and senior staff to develop and assess evidence and compliance. The wider Board has also had oversight and input into the process

The evidence which supports this Statement includes:

- Reports about performance in key areas, finance, service delivery, asset management, development and risk
- Internal and External Audit Reports and audit findings / judgements
- Advice from external and specialist advisers including Bield's independent governance review
- Reports, advice, information and other assurances from senior staff.

In reviewing and assessing its compliance Bield has adopted a robust approach to improvement and scrutiny. This identified a number of improvement actions which will be progressed during the forthcoming year and monitored by the Board at agreed intervals to ensure successful implementation. The Board is assured that these actions are intended to enhance Bield's governance and financial management and are not material to compliance or any other regulatory assurances.

In reviewing compliance with the Regulatory Framework, Board is assured that it is using data to take account of equality and human rights issues in its decisions, policy-making and day-to-day service delivery.

Full compliance has been confirmed across key safety areas including

- Gas safety
- Water safety
- Fire safety
- Asbestos
- Damp and Mould
- Lift safety

Bield is currently not fully compliant with the electrical safety requirements outlined in the Scottish Housing Quality Standard, with 84.4% of its properties currently holding a valid certificate. Bield is currently implementing its Action Plan that was agreed

with the SHR in January 2025, aiming to ensure that every property has an Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) in place no later than August 2026. Bield submits monthly progress updates against the Action Plan to SHR.

The Board's approach to reviewing and assessing Bield's compliance has been informed by relevant good practice advice including external support to provide us with additional assurance that the approach is effective and robust. This includes compliance with tenant and resident safety requirements. The Board confirms that this Assurance Statement is being published on our website on the same date that it is submitted to the SHR.

Finally, the Board fully recognises the need to keep these matters under constant review and to notify the SHR of any changes to Bield's compliance position prior to the submission of next year's Assurance Statement.

As Chair, I was authorised by the Board at a meeting held on 23 September 2025 to sign and submit this Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator which confirms that the Board is satisfied that Bield Housing and Care is compliant with the requirements of the Regulatory Framework.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)      23 September 2025