

Scottish Veterans' Residences Governing Body Annual Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator

The Governing Body of Scottish Veterans' Residences (SVR) is satisfied that, to the best of our knowledge, SVR is compliant with:

- The relevant regulatory requirements set out in Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework;
- The relevant standards and outcomes in the Scottish Social Housing Charter;
- The relevant legislative duties; and
- The Standards of Governance and Financial Management

With the exceptions listed at Annex A of this statement and for which we have identified and recorded the actions to address this non-compliance.

We are confident that all these actions will be completed by April 2020 and that full compliance will, consequently be achieved. The Governing Body will monitor progress at each meeting until full compliance is achieved. We will confirm our compliance as soon as we are satisfied that all of the necessary actions have been completed successfully.

The Governing Body came to this conclusion through exercising oversight and monitoring of an evidence bank that included internal and external reports, organisational policies and procedures, advice and information, throughout the year 2018-19.

Although, at this time, we are not fully compliant, we are assured, based on the evidence that we have reviewed that there are no threats to the safety or interests of our Residents and Tenants, or to the financial viability of SVR.

As Chairman, I am authorised by the Governing Body to sign and submit this Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator.

G E Lowder MBE
Chairman
Scottish Veterans' Residences Governing Body

Dated: October 2019

Annex A to Annual Assurance Statement: Current assessed SVR non-compliance.

Std	Guidance Statement	Key evidence required for compliance	Action required to achieve compliance
1.2	The RSL's governance policies and arrangements set out the respective roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of Governing Body Members and Senior Officers, and The Governing Body exercises overall responsibility and control of the strategic leadership of the RSL.	SVR's Constitution requires amendment following the recent merger of SVR and SVHA.	CEO to lead on amendment and adoption of new Constitution (on publication of Model Rules 2019). To be completed no later than Apr 20.
2.3	The Governing Body is open about what it does, publishes information about its activities and, wherever possible, agrees to requests for information about the work of The Governing Body and the RSL.	2020 Business Plan Tenant Engagement Strategy/Policy	Business Plan being developed by CEO for presentation in Dec 19. CEO to revise Tenant Engagement Strategy/Policy no later than Apr 20.
3.3	The RSL has a robust business planning and control framework and effective systems to monitor and accurately report delivery of its plans. Risks to the delivery of financial plans are identified and managed effectively. The RSL considers sufficiently the financial implications of risks to the delivery of plans.	2020 Business Plan Treasury Management Policy Scheme of Delegation. Internal Audit Policy.	Business Plan being developed by CEO for presentation in Dec 19. CEO and Treasurer to develop Treasury Management Policy no later than Dec 19. CEO to develop Scheme of Delegation no later than Dec 19. CEO to develop Internal Audit Policy no later than Dec 19.
4.5	The RSL has an internal audit function. The governing body ensures the effective oversight of the internal audit programme by an audit committee or otherwise. It has arrangements in place to monitor and review the quality and effectiveness of internal audit activity to ensure it meets its assurance needs in relation to regulatory requirements and the Standards of Governance and Financial Management.		
6.3	The RSL ensures that all Governing Body members are subject to annual performance review to assess their contribution and effectiveness. The Governing Body takes account of these annual performance reviews and its skills needs in its succession planning and learning and development plans. The governing body ensures that any Non-Executive Member seeking re-election after nine years' continuous service can demonstrate their continued effectiveness.	Dates of annual performance reviews. GB Succession Policy.	Chairman to confirm appraisal dates with Company Secretary, CEO to develop process for GB endorsement no later than Apr 20.

6.5	The RSL ensures all new Governing Body Members receive an effective induction programme to enable them to fully understand and exercise their governance responsibilities. Existing Governing Body Members are given ongoing support and training to gain or refresh skills and expertise and sustain their continued effectiveness.	GB Induction Process.	Company Secretary to develop process for GB endorsement no later than Apr 20.
7.8	The RSL complies with regulatory guidance on tenant consultation, ballots and authorisation.	Tenant Engagement Strategy/Policy.	CEO to revise Tenant Engagement Strategy/Policy no later than Apr 20.