



Title	Assurance Policy
Purpose	The purpose of this policy is to set out the Association’s approach to considering compliance with the requirements of the Scottish Housing Regulator’s Regulatory Framework and developing its annual Assurance Statement.
Scope	<p>This policy applies to the whole organisation and specifically the Association’s Board who are responsible for confirming compliance with the Regulatory Framework.</p> <p>The Policy will be implemented by the Board, the Performance and Governance Manager (whose role is to support the Board) and the wider Senior Management Team who report to the Board.</p>
Definitions	<p>For purposes of this policy, unless otherwise stated, the following definitions shall apply:</p> <p>Regulatory Framework: Scottish Housing Regulator’s Regulatory Framework, comprising the seven Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management, the Scottish Social Housing Charter, and other legislative requirements. The specific requirements are set out at Chapter 3 of the Framework.</p> <p>Assurance Statement: The Annual Assurance Statement which is required to be submitted to the Scottish Housing Regulator annually in line with Regulatory Guidance <i>Annual Assurance Statements</i> (or update thereof).</p> <p>Assurance Boards: Board meetings that take place three times each year with a focus on compliance against the Regulatory Framework and internal performance standards.</p> <p>Assurance Dashboard: a summary report showing compliance against the Regulatory Framework presented to each Assurance Board.</p> <p>Full Assurance Framework: a full review against all requirements of the Regulatory Framework updated and reported to the Board in August of each year.</p>
Policy Statement	<p>Annual assessment:</p> <p>The Association’s Board assesses compliance with the Regulatory Framework annually at its August meeting. It will used established</p>

sector frameworks, such as those developed by the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations and the Chartered Institute of Housing, to make this assessment.

Actions from this assessment are captured and progress is reported to Assurance Boards.

Assurance Boards:

The Association holds three Assurance Boards each year where the Board also consider key areas of the Association's performance and whether this impacts on compliance with the Regulatory Framework.

The key areas of performance (presented as reports) considered are:

- Operational performance
- Financial performance
- Risk management
- Complaints and customer feedback
- Health and safety compliance
- Delivery of the Association's Development programme
- Delivery of the Association's Investment programme
- Performance against the Association's Delivery Plan
- Performance against the Association's Governance Effectiveness Plan

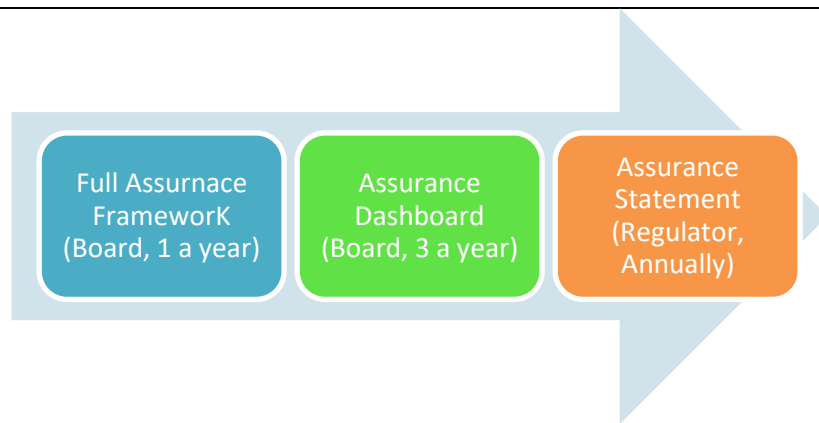
The lead officer for each area of performance presents their paper giving Board Members the opportunity to ask questions to the officer directly responsible.

A dashboard report is presented to each Assurance Board summarising compliance with the Regulatory framework.

Assurance statement

The Board approves its annual Assurance Statement at its October meeting. The Assurance statement summarises compliance against the Regulatory framework and identifies areas of focus or improvement for the Association.

The relationship between the annual assessment, Assurance Boards and annual Assurance Statement is summarised in the diagram below.



Changes in compliance during the year

Officers are responsible for identifying any potential areas of non-compliance with the Regulatory framework during the course of the year and reporting this to Board.

All Board reports include a section on Regulatory implications where officers highlight if/how the items under consideration relate to the Regulatory framework. Officers take external specialist advice and this is reported directly to the Board as relevant.

Assessing compliance

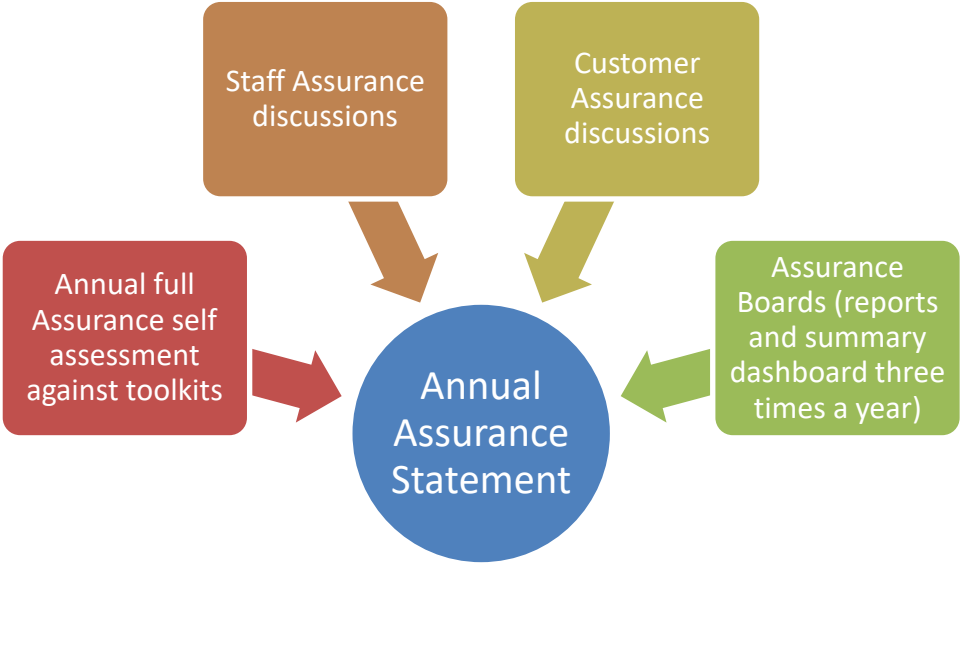
Board considers the materiality of any areas of non-compliance highlighted in the annual assessment, Assurance Boards or at any point during the year.

Board approves the 'assurance ratings' proposed by officers at each Assurance Board. Each area is assessed using a simple four-point rating:

- Compliant
- Compliant (with non-material areas for improvement)
- Working towards compliance
- Non-compliant

Board can request additional reports on any item of concern identified from the individual Assurance reports (or any other issues identified during the year).

Customers and staff are involved in assessing compliance against the Regulatory Framework. A summary of inputs into the compliance assessment are shown in the diagram below.

	 <p>Reporting changes in compliance</p> <p>Any material changes in compliance identified between the submission of Assurance statements are reported to the Board and the Regulator as a notifiable event.</p>
Approval	Board: May 2023
Policy Owner	Bryony Willett, CEO
Review	Board: May 2026