

# Housing Rights

## Private Rented Sector Conference 2016

Wednesday 23 November  
East Belfast Network Centre



Getting  
it Right

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# Private Rented Sector Conference 2016

Getting it Right

## The speakers

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**Susan Aktemel is Founding Director of Homes for Good (Scotland) CIC, and Homes for Good Investments Ltd**

Susan is also an experienced property developer and has combined these skills with her commitment to social change to create Scotland's first social enterprise letting agency and landlord operating solely in the private rented sector. Susan is also a director of Places for People Scotland, and a Business Fellow at Strathclyde University.



**Ben Beadle is Managing Director of TDS NI and Director of Customer Relations at TDS**

Ben has extensive experience in tenancy deposit protection and dispute resolution. Ben has adjudicated on tenancy deposit disputes, following a long career in lettings and property management.

TDS is the leading authority on tenancy deposit protection. TDS NI runs on a not for profit basis.



**Jennie Bibbings is Campaigns Manager at Shelter Cymru**

Jennie has worked in social policy since 2002, having previously been a journalist. Her particular interest is in supporting people to make their voices heard in order to create positive change. Jennie's policy work has influenced practice across a wide range of areas in Wales including housing and homelessness, consumer rights, food hygiene and sustainable development. Her role at Shelter Cymru is to manage policy, research, campaigns and media.



**Professor Tony Crook CBE FAcSS FRTPi**

Tony Crook is Deputy Chair of the Orbit Housing Group; a member of the RTPI Trustee Board; chairs the review of governance in Rotherham; and is on the Housing Commission for Northern England. Recent former non executive roles include: Shelter chair; Coalfields Regeneration Trust trustee; Academy of Social Sciences council member; Sheffield Homes Ltd chair; and a Lloyds Banking Group Housing Commission member. His current research includes private renting and planning obligations.



**Raymond Crooks is Chair of Landlords Association Northern Ireland**

Raymond has been Chair of the Landlords Association Northern Ireland since 2014. He is a graduate of the University of Ulster with a 2.1 in Government & Law BA (Hons) and a Masters In Administrative and Legal Studies. He has been solicitor and landlord since 1998 with Thompson Crooks Solicitors, Belfast. He specialises in property and commercial matters along with Chancery and Repossession proceedings on behalf of borrowers.



**Professor Paddy Gray is from the School of the Built Environment, University of Ulster**

Paddy Gray is an established academic and has wide experience of academic and applied research with over 200 publications on housing related issues. He has acted as Expert Advisor to government and regularly sits on strategic panels. In 2010 he was appointed the first ever Irish President of the Chartered Institute of Housing UK. Recent research has included extensive work on the private rented sector. He recently hosted the European Network for Housing Research in Belfast 2016.

Book online at [www.housingrights.org.uk](http://www.housingrights.org.uk) or email [frances@housingrights.org.uk](mailto:frances@housingrights.org.uk)



**Dr Aileen Hayden is Chairperson of Threshold, a housing charity in Ireland**

Aileen was author of a widely cited report by Threshold on the £5,000 Surrender Grant and has contributed to a number of publications on the Irish housing market. An active member of the European Network for Housing Research, she is group co-ordinator of the Private Rented Markets subgroup. She received her doctorate for her research into the privatisation of social housing in Ireland. She has also practised as a solicitor.



**Clare McCarty is Group Chief Executive at Clanmil Housing Group**

Clare is a qualified Chartered Surveyor but has always chosen to work in the social housing sector. She is a member of the Chartered Institute of Housing, and has led Clanmil Housing Group for over 30 years. Clanmil owns and manages more than 4,000 homes providing a range of accommodation for families, older people and for those who need support.



**Robert McDowell is Director at Rae Estates**

Roberts early career was in retail banking where over 13 years, he gained invaluable experience of finance in the property and construction sectors. From there Robert spent the next 15 years as the Director of residential development companies. Robert is the holder of an MBA in International Business. He has been a Non Executive Director of a Housing Association for the last six years, providing him with additional experience of social housing and the challenges facing the sector.



**Charlotte McHaffie is Policy Manager within the Scottish Government's Private Rented Sector Policy Team.**

Charlotte is leading the implementation of the regulation of letting agents being introduced under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2014. Prior to this role, she has worked on social housing policy; mainstreaming equality and in human resources.



**Danny McQuillan is Director of Services at Extern**

Extern is the leading Social Justice Charity across Ireland providing a wide range of services to families and individuals in need of support. Danny oversees the delivery of a range of services to people who are homeless, people leaving prison, those living with an addiction and providing support to refugees. Danny is also Director of Services for Young People and Families and Communities on an all-Ireland basis.



**Claire O'Neill is an Environmental Health Officer with Belfast City Council**

Claire qualified as an Environmental Health Officer in 1992 and has worked in private rented sector regulation with Belfast City Council for the past 17 years. She co-manages a busy, reactive team of 35 professionals dealing with Environmental Protection, Public Health, Housing and Home Safety matters in Belfast. Claire is the Belfast City Council representative on a NI Council-wide specialist group dealing with Housing and Public Health issues.



**Faith Westwood is a Housing Adviser with Housing Rights**

Faith graduated with a Law degree from Queens in 2004. Following this she spent several years working as a paralegal in private practice, moving on to international trade negotiations in an investment bank. Faith joined Housing Rights 7 years ago with a desire to assist people who had been negatively impacted by the economic crisis. Faith is an experienced adviser and case worker with and has delivered training to landlords as part of CIHNI Learning to Let programme.



**Derek Wilson is head of Mortgage Strategy and Distribution at First Trust Bank**

Derek has spent thirty five years working in Financial Services. He is currently head of Mortgage Strategy and Distribution for First Trust bank, Chairman of the Council of Mortgage lenders for NI and a Board member of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.



With one in five households now renting privately, it is critical the right structures are put in place to raise standards for those making their home in the sector.

This one day conference will examine best practice for the private rented sector across the UK and Ireland. It will cover the key areas to be debated in government proposals expected to be published for consultation later this year.

This event provides a great opportunity for housing professionals to engage and learn more about the challenges and opportunities facing Northern Ireland's private rented sector.

## The programme

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- 09.00 Registration
- 09.40 Welcome and overview  
Janet Hunter, Director of Housing Rights
- 09.45 Key note address  
Minister for Communities, Paul Givan MLA
- 10:00 Setting the private rented sector scene  
Professor Paddy Gray, University of Ulster

### Session 1 Laying the Right Foundations

- 10.15 The need for security of tenure  
Dr Aideen Hayden, Chairperson of Threshold
- 10.40 Q&A and panel discussion with Claire O'Neill, Belfast City Council, Raymond Crooks, LANI and Faith Westwood, Housing Rights
- 11.20 Coffee break

### Session 2 Addressing the Supply Challenge

- 11.35 Institutional investment in the private rented sector  
Professor Tony Crook, University of Sheffield
- 12:00 Supporting tenants and landlords  
Susan Aktemel, Homes for Good
- 12.25 Q&A and panel discussion with Clare McCarty, Clanmill; Robert McDowell, Rea Estates; Danny McQuillan, Extern; Derek Wilson, First Trust Bank.
- 13:15 Lunch

### Session 3 Raising Standards through Regulation

- 14:00 Regulation to improve standards - the experience so far with tenancy deposits  
Ben Beadle, Director, TDS NI
- 14:20 Implementing landlord licensing - Rent Smart Wales  
Jennie Bibbings, Campaign Manager, Shelter Cymru
- 14:50 Letting agent regulation - the Scottish experience  
Charlotte McHaffie, Policy Manager, Scottish Government
- 15:20 Q&A
- 15:45 Closing remarks

## Who should attend?

This conference is for those who want to learn from others how to create a private rented sector that works for tenants and landlords.

It will be of interest to:

- environmental health officers
- housing academics
- housing professionals
- landlords
- letting agents
- politicians and policy makers
- regeneration officers
- tenants

## Cost & Booking

**£110 for members**

**£120 for non members**

Group discounts available contact us for more details.

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