

# The Speakers

## #PRS20

Headline Sponsor:



**Gareth Baglow, Welsh Government & Tenant Saver Loan Scheme**

**@WG\_Communities**



Gareth works on private sector housing policy in the Welsh Government. He worked on Part 1 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, which brought in the first national licensing scheme for private landlords in the UK (Rent Smart Wales). He also worked on the legislation which banned fees charged to private tenants. He has been working on the Welsh Government's Housing response to Covid-19, including the formation of the Tenancy Saver Loan scheme.



**Jordan Buchanan, Chief Economist at PropertyPal @jbuchanan0707**



Jordan Buchanan is the Chief Economist at PropertyPal, acting as the spokesperson for the company and a trusted subject matter expert on all UK and Northern Ireland economic and housing matters. He currently sits on the Board of Co-Ownership, Northern Ireland's shared ownership provider.



**Carál Ní Chuilín, Minister for Communities**

**@CommunitiesNI**



Carál Ní Chuilín is a Sinn Féin politician, currently serving as Minister for Communities in a temporary capacity. Carál was elected as MLA for North Belfast in 2007. North Belfast has some of the North's most deprived wards and Carál is known for her high profile campaigning on the local housing crisis and leisure inequalities.



**Amy Clair, University of Essex**

**@amyclair503**



Amy Clair is a Research Fellow in the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex, UK. Her work explores the relationships between housing, health and well-being with particular emphasis on the well-being of children. Recent work has demonstrated associations between housing experiences and health biomarkers, developed a measure of housing precariousness and highlighted the importance of housing to child well-being.



**Maureen Corcoran, Churchill Foundation**

**@Molondon55**



Maureen Corcoran started in housing as a tenant and community activist in Waterloo in London. She was a member and chair of a local housing co-operative and became very active in many other housing and community projects. She went on to work professionally in housing, rising up the ranks from being a front line housing officer to become Head of Housing in the Audit Commission where she ran the housing inspection regime.



**Laura Coulter, Housing Rights**

**@HousingRightsNI**



Laura Coulter has wide experience of working as peace builder and mediator in Northern Ireland and internationally. From a background in community development, her growing interest in peacebuilding led her into community relations work, mediation practice in a number of settings and working in peacebuilding programmes.



**Prof Paddy Gray, Ulster University**

**@paddygray1**



Paddy Gray has carried out a wide range of research on the PRS. In 2010 he was appointed the first Irish President of the Chartered Institute of Housing UK. He is a regular media commentator on housing related issues. He is currently Chair of Connswater Homes, Vice Chair of Glasgow Housing Association and Vice Chair Tuath Housing, Dublin.



**Dr Jennifer Harris, CaCHE**

**@jennyharris87**



Jennifer Harris is a Senior Research Associate for the UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE) and is based within the School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol. Jennifer leads on a diverse programme of work on issues relating to the UK private rented sector with the broad objective of improving conditions and outcomes in the sector.



**Ailbhe Hickey, NIHE**

**@nihecommunity**



Ailbhe completed her BA (Hons) in University College Cork and a MSc in Town and Country Planning at Queens University Belfast. Following that she took up a graduate post in a consultancy in Northern Ireland before moving to Manchester where she worked in a private multidisciplinary property & development practice. Ailbhe joined NIHE as a Planning Officer in Derry in 2009, and is currently Acting Director of Land & Regeneration at NIHE.



**Alun Jones, Wales Council for Voluntary Action**

**@WCVACymru**



Alun is a reformed banker who started working for WCVA on Communities Investment Fund in 2012 and now leads on all of WCVA's social investment activity. Social Investment Cymru (SIC) continues its mission putting money to work in communities and is now the largest Wales based social lender. Its highly popular Social Business Growth Fund and Community Asset Development Fund are trail blazers for innovative funding in Europe.



**Claire Maddison, Housing Rights**

**@HousingRightsNI**



Claire Maddison joined Housing Rights in October 2019 as Co-ordinator for Renters' Voice, a new project working to build tenant participation in the Private Rented Sector in Northern Ireland. Her background is in independent advocacy and establishing projects to support people with learning disabilities, dementia and mental ill health. She has also worked as a Training and Development Officer with a focus on adult safeguarding.



**Dr Martina McAuley, Housing Rights**

**@DrMartiMcAuley**



Dr Martina McAuley has worked for Housing Rights since September 2018, having previously completed her PhD in Economic Sociology at Queen's University Belfast. Martina has taught at QUB on research methods, social theory and comparative social inequalities. She has presented her work to national and international audiences and has contributed to a text book on inequality in Ireland (with Dr Eoin Flaherty, forthcoming) as well as writing articles based on her PhD work.

# Conference Programme

## #PRS20



Chairperson: Prof. Paddy Gray, Ulster University

09.40 Welcome from the Chair

---

### Section 1: Sector Overview

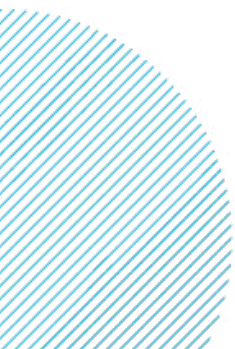
- 09.45 Keynote address - **Communities Minister Carál Ní Chuilín**
- 10.00 Economic and housing market update: Challenges and opportunities in a new landscape  
- **Jordan Buchanan, Property Pal**
- 10.30 Improving Compliance and Enforcement in the UK Private Rented Sector  
- **Dr Jennifer Harris, CaCHE**
- 11.00 Coffee Break
- 

### Section 2: Major Challenges in the PRS - Breakout sessions

- 11.15
- Home, Health and well-being in the context of the Covid-19 Pandemic – **Dr Amy Clair, University of Essex**
  - Covid-19 Preventing Evictions in the PRS in Wales – **Alun Jones, Wales Council for Voluntary Action and Gareth Baglow, Welsh Government and Tenant Saver Loan Scheme**
  - Mediation in the Private Rented Sector – **Laura Coulter, Housing Rights**
  - The Perfect Storm; the impact of Covid-19 on private renters in NI - **Dr Martina McAuley, Housing Rights**
- 12.10 Lunch Break
- 

### Section 3: Landlords and Tenants

- 12.50 Insights for Northern Ireland Landlords- **Ailbhe Hickey, NIHE**
- 13.15 Renters' Voice one year in: Overcoming Challenges – Expected and Unexpected  
- **Claire Maddison, Housing Rights**
- 13.35 How Germany provides better private renting for all - lessons for future proofing the PRS in Northern Ireland - **Maureen Corcoran, Churchill Foundation**
- 14.00 Closing remarks





# Our Sponsors

## #PRS20

### Headline Sponsor:



*Special thanks to our long standing supporter of our conference, TDSNI.*

Award winning TDS are Northern Irelands leading and only not for profit tenancy deposit protection scheme. TDS protect deposits on private tenancies and resolving disputes over their return.

- [Latest news from TDS NI](#)
- [TDS NI webinars](#)
- [Tools and guides for tenants and landlords](#)
- [Check out their blog #AskTDS](#)

### Supported by:



*Thanks to support from PropertyPal for this years conference, we have been able to offer free places to landlords and tenants.*

PropertyPal is the leading local property portal, listing homes from property professionals across Northern Ireland and Ireland. PropertyPal has the largest audience of home movers in Northern Ireland, with over 150,000 visitors to the website per day and 230,000 followers across social media. PropertyPal is also a key provider of research, reporting, data and commentary on the residential housing market.

- [Download PropertyPal latest housing market report](#)
- [Download PropertyPal report on how covid has changed home-buying](#)



*Thanks to Electrical Safety First for their support in helping us host this years conference.*

Electrical Safety First is a campaigning charity that aims to reduce deaths and injuries caused by electricity in UK homes. They work closely with Government, the electrical industry, manufacturers, retailers and consumer safety organisations to improve safety regulation and standards to help people stay safe in their homes.

- [Read the latest news from Electrical Safety First](#)
- [Check out their guidance on safety around the home](#)