

# Choice Based Lettings Conference 2008

## Reconciling Choice with Need

The latest forecast from the Department for Communities and Local Government indicates that publication of the new statutory Code of Guidance on Choice Based Lettings is unlikely until **'towards the end of the year'**.

This further unexpected delay means that the social housing sector must continue to do its best to formulate its policies, plans, procedures and working practices in the context of continuing uncertainty.

Lime Legal, with input from some of the country's foremost experts in Choice Based Lettings, has **completely revised** the programme for the CBL conference on 19th September to take account of this delay and to help those in local authorities and RSLs who are involved in Choice Based Lettings work.

### LONDON

**Friday 19th September 2008**

Hotel Russell,  
Russell Square,  
London, WC1B

#### Fee

£295 + VAT

### SPEAKERS

- **Jan Luba QC**, Garden Court Chambers (Chairman and lead speaker)
- **Robert Latham**, Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers
- **Frances Walker**, Communities and Local Government
- **John Littlemore**, Chief Housing Officer, Maidstone Borough Council



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# Choice Based Lettings Conference 2008

## Reconciling Choice with Need

This important one day conference on Choice Based Lettings is chaired, and presented by one of the major figures in Housing Law, Jan Luba QC, with a distinguished panel of speakers.

In the light of the delay in publication of the Code of Guidance the sector is crying out for guidance on this complex area of social housing and there can be no better line up to provide that than the conference speakers:

**Frances Walker**, Policy Advisor at Communities and Local Government who is responsible for progressing the Government's CBL policy, **John Littlemore**, Chief Housing Officer, Maidstone Borough Council, Chair of Kent Housing Group which is delivering the largest CBL partnership in Britain and **Robert Latham**, Barrister at Doughty Street Chambers who specialises in Choice Based Lettings.

Take advantage of this opportunity to get up to speed on the latest in CBL by reserving your place at this unmissable event.

**Everyone who needs to understand allocation of social housing by local authorities or RSLs should attend this conference.**

### SPEAKERS

**Jan Luba QC** (Chairman and lead speaker) Garden Court Chambers, London. Jan is one of the country's leading experts on housing allocations law and practice. He has been described as 'a walking encyclopaedia of Housing Law'.

**Robert Latham** Barrister, the senior member of the Housing and Welfare Team at Doughty Street Chambers, London. Robert is described as 'a forceful and imaginative advocate' in Chambers UK Directory of the Legal Profession and is an acknowledged expert on Choice Based Lettings schemes. He also appeared in *R (Ahmed) v Newham LBC*.

**Frances Walker** Policy Advisor, Social Housing Management branch, Communities and Local Government. Frances is responsible for taking forward the Government's Choice Based Lettings Policy.

**John Littlemore** Chief Housing Officer, Maidstone Borough Council and Chair of Kent Housing Group which is delivering the largest CBL Partnership in Britain.

### Who should attend?

An unmissable event for all Local Authority and RSL personnel including:

- Lettings & Allocations Managers and Officers
- Housing Assessment Personnel
- Housing Policy Staff
- Local Authority and RSL Lawyers
- Directors of Housing
- Independent Housing Advisers
- Everyone who needs to understand allocation of social housing by local authorities or RSLs



### SPECIAL FEATURE

Take advantage of this unique opportunity to ask the experts the questions of concern to your organisation and benefit from their answers and the experiences of your fellow professionals.

### What delegates have said about our Homelessness and Lettings training events:

*'Best conference I've attended in the last 12 months – if not ever – will definitely recommend it to colleagues'*  
Senior Housing Advice Officer

*'An excellent conference. Very informative and interestingly presented.'*  
Accommodation Services Manager

*'Very enjoyable day. Loads of information to take away.'*  
Homeless Persons Team Leader

*'Excellent event. Well worth the visit!'*  
Housing Assessment Manager

*'Excellent and unique conference'*  
Housing Manager

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#### ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND SOCIAL HOUSING CONFERENCE 2008

London 10th October 2008  
Full details at [www.limelegal.co.uk](http://www.limelegal.co.uk)

**Book on-line at [www.limelegal.co.uk](http://www.limelegal.co.uk)**

## Programme

10.00–10.10

### Chairman's Introduction

*Jan Luba QC, Garden Court Chambers*

10.10–11.00

### Policy Overview: How Do We Get to 'Universal' CBL?

*Frances Walker, Policy Advisor,  
Social Housing Branch, Communities  
and Local Government*

- What the Government is looking for by 2010
- Local, regional or sub-regional: what would be best?
- Government help to achieve its targets
- Guidance: progress towards a new Code
- Best Practice in CBL: sharing and learning lessons to date
- What place for 'local lettings'?

11.00–11.15

### Refreshments

11.15–12.10

### From Policy to Practice: Delivering CBL

*John Littlemore, Chief Housing Officer,  
Maidstone Borough Council*

- Setting-up a scheme
- Working with partners
- Implementing a scheme
- Meeting customer expectation
- Practical problems and their solutions
- The view from the 'front line'

12.10–12.40

### The new Act and Housing Allocation

*Jan Luba QC, Garden Court Chambers*

- Housing & Regeneration Act 2008
- Impact on 'local connection'
- Impact on 'eligibility'
- The role of the Tenant Services Authority

12.40–13.00

### Question & Answer on Policy & Practice

*Panel*

13.00–14.00

### Lunch

14.00–14.10

### Chairman's Introduction to the Afternoon Session

*Jan Luba QC, Garden Court Chambers*

14.10–15.00

### 'Choice' in the Courts: CBL and the Judges

*Robert Latham, Barrister,  
Doughty Street Chambers*

- Decisions on access to the allocation scheme
- Prioritising within the law
- Can 'homelessness' or 'local connection' trump the rest?
- Dealing with cumulative need
- The latest case law on other issues
- Designing-out legal disasters

15.00–15.20

### Refreshments

15.20–16.15

### Avoiding the Pitfalls, the Lawyers and the Regulators

*Jan Luba QC, Garden Court Chambers*

- What the scheme must contain
- Dealing with non-allocations
- Information for customers
- Decision-making and notification
- Reviews and complaints
- Revising the scheme in the light of experience
- Problems with nominations to housing associations

16.15–16.45

### Question & Answer Law and Procedure

*Panel*

14.00–14.10

### Looking Ahead

*Jan Luba QC, Garden Court Chambers*

17.00

### Close of Conference



**SPECIAL THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT  
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## Booking Form

**London** Friday 19th September 2008

Please reserve ..... place(s) at the above event:

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### How to book

To secure your place complete the form and send it to us by one of the following methods:

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**Fee** £295 + VAT (£51.62) = £346.62

**Third and subsequent delegates** offer applies to same event, same location, multiple bookings only. Provided all delegates are from the same office of the same firm/organisation/ chambers and book at the same time as two full price delegates, the additional delegates qualify for a half-price place at £147.50 + VAT (£25.81) = £173.31 per delegate. Offer applies to a booking of up to 9 delegates.

**NOTE** If you have not received admission details from us at least 7 days before the date of the event please let us know.

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**The conference is CPD accredited for 5 hours 30 minutes by the SRA, Bar Standards Board and ILEX.**



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