

Homelessness & Lettings Conference 2011

Law and Practice

The unmissable conference for local authority and RSL personnel involved in assisting the homeless and in the allocation of social housing

LONDON

Friday 6th May 2011

Copthorne Tara Hotel,
Kensington,
London, W8

Fee

Only £295 + VAT

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- Running Housing Options Services the Right Way!
- Policy Update
- Lettings Case Law Update
- The New Bill and Gearing Up for the 2012 Changes
- Homelessness: the essential case law update
- Handling Applications, Reviews & Appeals
- Preparing for Change in Homelessness Functions: discharging the duty in the private sector

SPEAKERS

- **Jan Luba QC** (Chairman), Garden Court Chambers
- **Ken Emerson**, Head of Housing Operations, London Borough of Richmond-Upon-Thames
- **Ruth Stanier OBE**, Deputy Director, Homelessness and Repossessions, CLG
- **Andy Gale**, one of the country's top experts in Homelessness and Lettings
- **Liz Davies**, Barrister, Garden Court Chambers

PROGRAMME INCLUDES
THE LOCALISM BILL PLUS ALL
THE LATEST CASE LAW AND
OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Homelessness & Lettings Conference 2011

Lime Legal's annual Homelessness & Lettings Conference has become firmly established as the conference to help you get to grips with all of the key developments in the field of homelessness and lettings. The pace of change in this field is such that you really cannot afford not to keep up-to-date.

BOOK NOW so that you can benefit from guidance and insights on best practice, implications of the Localism Bill, updates on all the important legal cases and legislation in both homelessness and lettings and for practical tips and pointers.

This year's conference is chaired by **Jan Luba QC**, one of the country's leading authorities on homelessness and lettings work. Jan will also give two presentations. The conference opens with a 'Policy Update' from **Ruth Stanier OBE** highlighting the latest initiatives and plans.

Andy Gale, one of the most respected names in the social housing sector will present a talk which aims to offer practical tips and guidance on how to run an effective housing homelessness and lettings service that makes the most of the resources and expertise and serves the needs of the public. **Liz Davies**, specialises in the legal aspects of homelessness work. Her comprehensive review of the latest cases will span domestic violence, disability discrimination and all of the key housing duties.

Jan Luba QC, in the first of two presentations in the programme will provide a detailed review of lettings case law, developments, and offer insights into the implications of the Localism Bill and how to get ready for the implementation of the changes and the new Code of Guidance. **Ken Emerson** (head of housing operations, London Borough of Richmond-Upon-Thames) will share the benefit of his years of experience, offering guidance on how to reach the right decisions in relation to housing applications, appeals and reviews and how to make decisions less susceptible to challenge.

Jan Luba QC will then present a briefing on the legal issues involved in the new role the private rented sector will play in homelessness cases.

All this plus two 'Ask the Experts' sessions where the distinguished panel of speakers will be available so that everyone will have the opportunity to raise questions or points for discussion.

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW!



ALSO OF INTEREST
SOCIAL HOUSING LAW & PRACTICE
CONFERENCE 2011

London 19th May 2011
Full details at www.limelegal.co.uk

Who should attend?

- Housing Options Team Managers and Officers
- Homelessness Managers and Officers
- Lettings/Allocations Managers and Officers
- Housing Policy Managers and Officers
- RSL Staff responsible for contracted-out homelessness or lettings work
- Heads and Directors of Housing
- In-house Social Housing Lawyers
- Legal Advisers in private practice
- Advice agency staff

SPEAKERS

Jan Luba QC (Chairman and speaker) Garden Court Chambers. Jan has been described in *Chambers & Partners Directory* as 'the leading QC for housing related public law matters' and as 'a walking encyclopaedia of housing law'.

Ken Emerson Head of housing operations, London Borough of Richmond-Upon-Thames. Ken has been working in the statutory homeless sector for 20 years in both frontline and managerial positions. He is a former chair of the London Homeless Managers Group and member of the London Housing Need and Homelessness Group.

Ruth Stanier OBE Deputy director, Homelessness and Repossessions, Communities and Local Government.

Andy Gale is one of the best known names in the field of homelessness and lettings. He trains and advises local authorities around the country. He has a wide range of local government experience including as housing needs manager for Harrow Council. He was formerly in charge of homelessness and advice at Ealing Council.

Liz Davies Barrister, Garden Court Chambers, is one of the country's foremost experts on the law of homelessness and allocation of social housing.

Year after year this conference receives superb feedback. Just look at what past delegates have said:

'Really useful day packed with facts and information'

Local Authority Housing Adviser

'Excellent programme, really informative'

Lettings Manager

'Excellent conference – very informative and interestingly presented'

Local Authority Head of Accommodation Services

'Very impressed – informative and thorough'

Housing Options Manager

'As always, very informative and enjoyable'

Housing Advice Manager

Book online at www.limelegal.co.uk

Programme

09.15–10.00

Registration

10.00–10.10

Chairman's Introduction

Jan Luba QC

10.10–10.35

Policy Update on Homelessness & Lettings

Ruth Stanier OBE

10.40–11.25

How to Run Your Housing Options Services the Right Way!

Andy Gale

- How to review your structure to be fit for purpose
- Making best use of staff and resources in tougher economic times
- Practical steps to prepare your homelessness and lettings service now for legislative changes
- Learning lessons on Housing Options: good and bad practice
- Current trends and impending challenges

11.25–11.40

Refreshments

11.40–12.30

Lettings: Update on Case Law, Consultation, the New Bill and Gearing for the 2012 Changes

Jan Luba QC

- All the court cases since *Ahmad* examined
- All the recent Ombudsmen reports on lettings reviewed
- What the Government proposes to change and why: the *Local Decisions* consultation paper and its aftermath
- The detailed changes under the microscope: transfers and new lets
- Getting ready for 2012: changing the local scheme again!
- On standby for *Code of Guidance No.5* (England) and *No.2* (Wales)
- Whatever happened to 'the right to move'?

12.30–12.50

Questions and Answers

Panel

12.50–13.50

Lunch

13.50–14.40

Homelessness: Case Law Update

Liz Davies

- How to prevent homelessness and also comply with Housing Act 1996 duties
- What constitutes 'domestic violence'? The Supreme Court decides in *Yemshaw v Hounslow LBC*
- Disability discrimination and homelessness; traps for the unwary
- Performing the main housing duty: *the right ways!*
- Ending that duty: *the right ways!*
- Comprehensive update covering case-law and statute in the last 12 months on other aspects of homelessness

14.40–15.30

Handling Applications, Reviews & Appeals: Keeping Out of the Courts on Lettings and Homelessness

Ken Emerson

- Back to basics: forms, files and enquiries
- Back to basics again: partnerships, protocols and teamwork
- Decisions on homelessness applications ('section 184 letters')
- '*Minded to*' and '*Mohammed*': how to handle reviews
- Lettings: do we have to carry out a review?
- The Local Government Ombudsman: 'a critical friend'?

15.30–15.45

Refreshments

15.45–16.20

Preparing for Change in Homelessness Functions: The Legal Aspects of Discharging Duties in the Private Sector

Jan Luba QC

- Which duties can be performed using the private rented sector, at present?
- Which duties can be ended by refusal of private sector accommodation, at present?
- What will the Localism Bill amendments change?
- What do local housing authorities and their social landlord partners need to do to prepare to use the new provisions?
- Where and when will they be useful?
- 'Step change' or 'minor tweak'?

16.20–16.50

Questions and Answers

Panel

16.50

Close of Conference

