

**09.25**                      **Welcome**

The conference will open with a welcome address from **Rosemary Keczkes, LLG Training Board Advisor & Principal Legal Officer, Leeds City Council**. Rosemary will also chair the conference aside from the last session, guiding discussions and ensuring a cohesive programme.

**Chaired by Rosemary Keczkes, LLG Training Board Advisor & Principal Legal Officer, Leeds City Council**

**09.30 – 10.15**            **Renters' Rights Bill - The End of Section 21 and the New Enforcement Landscape**

The Renters' Rights Bill marks the most significant shift in private renting for decades. Explore the abolition of Section 21, reformed possession grounds, the PRS database, and redress mechanisms. Understand timelines and transitional challenges so councils can plan for a smooth, defensible shift to the new regime.

**Sarah Christy, Legal Director, Capsticks**

**10.15 – 10.30**            **Break**

**10.30 – 11.15**            **Local Authority Enforcement Under the Renters' Rights Bill**

Councils will play a pivotal role in implementing the new framework. This session examines local authority duties, civil penalties, investigatory powers, and intelligence-led enforcement. Learn how to balance fair regulation with limited resources and coordinate with central databases and redress schemes.

**Lorna Kenyon-Pain, Senior Associate, Anthony Colins**  
**Penny Bournes, Associate, Anthony Collins**

**11.15 – 11.30**            **Break**

**11.30 – 12.15**            **Temporary Accommodation Pressures and Legal Risk**

Rising demand and constrained supply continue to test local authorities. This session unpacks key risks around procurement, suitability, and gatekeeping, highlighting case law and Ombudsman findings. Gain strategies for maintaining lawfulness, defensible decision-making, and transparency amid mounting budget and capacity pressures.

**Victoria Searle, Principal Associate, Browne Jacobson**

**12.15 – 13:00**            **Lunch**

**13:00 – 13.45**            **Homelessness Case Law Update**

Stay current with the latest judgments shaping homelessness practice. From priority need and suitability to assessments, remedies, and relief duties, this session provides a clear synthesis of emerging principles and their practical implications for local decision-making and review processes.

**Stephanie Smith, Barrister, 4-5 Gray's Inn Square**

**13.45 – 14:00**      **Break**

**14:00 – 14.45**      **Awaab's Law: Statutory Timeframes and Operational Readiness**

As Awaab's Law comes into force, social landlords face binding deadlines to investigate and remedy hazards. This session outlines the statutory requirements, governance obligations, and reporting duties—and explores how councils can align housing management, legal, and environmental health functions to ensure compliance.

**Jill Carey, Partner, Freeths**

**14.45 – 15:00**      **Break**

**15:00 – 15.45**      **Heat Network Regulatory Regime**

In this session for housing providers, we'll unpack the new heat network regulatory regime going live on 27 January 2026 and what it means in practice. We'll clarify whether you're a supplier, operator, or both, then translate Ofgem's authorisation conditions into clear actions on fair pricing, billing transparency, contracts, complaints, vulnerability support, and disconnection safeguards. We'll work through direct billing, rent-bundled and service charge models, highlighting quick wins, common pitfalls, and how to build consumer trust while staying compliant.

**Steve Gummer, Partner & Head of Net Zero, Sharpe Pritchard**

**Chaired by Deborah Evans, CEO, LLG**

**Conference End**