

In association with:



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

**INSTITUTE OF
PROFESSIONAL
LEGAL STUDIES**

**Housing
Rights**

HOUSING LAW AND POLICY



**SHAPING
A BETTER
WORLD
SINCE 1845**

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Delivered by the Institute of Professional Legal Studies in conjunction with Housing Rights, this course offers an introduction to housing law and policy in Northern Ireland. It will cover aspects of housing law such as social housing, the private rented sector and home ownership.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Solicitors and barristers who practice in housing law
- Professionals working in the housing sector
- Those with an interest in policy and research in the housing sector.

The course will be offered as a mix of seminars at the Institute and online.

HOUSING RIGHTS

Housing Rights was established in 1964. It provides independent advice, advocacy, and legal representation for those experiencing housing problems. It offers training and information on housing and homelessness issues in NI and carries out housing and homelessness policy work to affect positive change. Its work is aimed at preventing homelessness, helping people access appropriate accommodation, and where possible, helping people sustain their existing accommodation.

SPEAKERS

Charles O'Neill Solicitor



Charles O'Neill is Director of Product Development with Co-Ownership. Charles has previously held a number of legal and operational roles within the organisation.

A solicitor by profession, he has a keen interest in housing law and policy and has written textbooks on the law of mortgages and private tenancies in Northern Ireland.

Stuart Harper Solicitor



Stuart started his career in private practice in a general practice firm gaining experience in residential and commercial property, after ten years he moved to Co-Ownership as a Senior

Legal Adviser where he spent seven years. He has recently been appointed as a permanent, full time lecturer at the Institute of Professional Legal Studies. Stuart has a keen interest in Housing Law.

Faith Westwood



Faith Westwood graduated from Queens University in 2004 with a degree in Law. After graduation she worked in the legal department of an investment bank negotiating international trade contracts. Faith has worked for Housing Rights for 15 years in a variety of roles including advice, advocacy and representation, developing and delivering expert training and support on housing issues to other housing practitioners; and as a mediator. She has varied experience and knowledge of the housing sector in Northern Ireland and particular expertise in the Private Rented Sector and Social Housing.

Justin Cartwright



Justin Cartwright is National Director for Northern Ireland at the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH), where he leads NI policy and external affairs work. Justin is a chartered member of CIH and holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Honours) from RMIT University in Melbourne, having undertaken research on acoustics in the built environment. He is a trustee of Supporting Communities and of the North of Ireland Family History Society.

Angela Wiggam



Angela is a chartered town planner with over 23 years' experience and an Associate member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. She is the Head of Planning (Ireland) at Turley, leading a large team across three office locations on a range of high profile planning and regeneration projects across various sectors including residential, renewable energy, commercial and mixed use developments.

She has a significant level of expertise and knowledge across all sectors of planning and an extensive track record of securing planning permission on significant proposals including residential developments and major commercial developments for logistics and advanced manufacturing clients.

Course Details

VENUE

Institute of Professional Legal Studies Queen's University Belfast, 10 Lennoxvale, Belfast, BT9 5BY

DATES

Wednesday 19th March 2025 – 10am to 12.30pm
Wednesday 2nd April 2025 – 10am to 12.30pm
Wednesday 7th May 2025 – 10am to 12.30pm
Wednesday 18th June 2025 – 10am to 12.30pm

Where the session is at the IPLS refreshments will be available from 9.30am.

CPD

Time spent by solicitors and barristers attending lectures and workshops in person or completing these via e-learning as part of this course can be claimed towards your annual CPD requirement. Attendance at this course will cover 8 hours of group study CPD.

TIMETABLE

A full timetable for the course which includes more details of the topics covered and the speakers who will be presenting will soon be available on the CPD section of our website at <https://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/InstituteofProfessionalLegalStudies/CPDCourses/>

FEES and REGISTRATION

£625 (£525 if a member of Housing Rights)

Applicants will be considered on a first-come first-served basis. Spaces are limited on the course and therefore you should register and pay as soon as possible by visiting our website at <https://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/InstituteofProfessionalLegalStudies/CPDCourses/>

Course Outline

1 Module 1 19th March 2025, 10am to 12.30pm **The development of housing policy**

This module will cover aspects of the development of housing policy in Northern Ireland, including the consultation process and opportunities to influence policy, how laws are made in the Northern Ireland Assembly. It will also cover secondary legislation and the implications of case law.

2 Module 2 2nd April 2025, 10am to 12.30pm **Social housing**

This will cover aspects of the social housing sector including the legislative provisions relating to the allocation and provision of social housing including the nature of the tenancies provided and the responsibilities of landlord and tenant. It will also cover the law relating to homelessness in Northern Ireland including the eligibility for assistance and the rights and duties owed in relation to homelessness.

3 Module 3 7th May 2025, 10am to 12.30pm **Home ownership**

This will cover aspects of the home buying process including the new Home Charter Provisions, the Joint Memorandum on Improving Communications between the Professions. It will also discuss commonly encountered issues such as service charges and management companies.

4 Module 4 18th June 2025, 10am to 12.30pm **The Private Rented Sector**

This will cover the current legislative framework in the private rented sector including recent developments such as landlord registration and tenancy deposit provisions and the Houses in Multiple Occupation Act (NI) 2016.

www.qub.ac.uk/schools/InstituteofProfessionalLegalStudies/



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“I thoroughly enjoyed completing the Housing Law and Policy course, the lecturers/presenters were very knowledgeable and well-informed on the topics every week, the discussion was lively and provided further insight for all in attendance. The course reignited my passion for housing law and helped to further develop and inform me in my own role in the housing sector.”

Eibhlin Collins
Northern Ireland Housing Executive

“The course content was well pitched and the sessions delivered a great overview of housing legislation and policy in NI. It was also a good opportunity to meet housing practitioners from across the sector.”

Tim O'Malley
Neighbourhood Services Manager at Clanmil Housing Association

“The course was really interactive and interesting. The presenters were all experts in their field and were able to answer our questions in a clear and concise way. I also appreciated the opportunity to meet other housing professionals from across NI, it was great to hear about their experiences and learn from their insights. Overall, I thought this was a very valuable course and I would definitely recommend it to anyone working in the housing sector.”

Christine Cackett
Senior Policy and Improvement Officer, Radius Housing

How to get more information

Visit our website for the latest availability, dates and fees:

www.qub.ac.uk/schools/InstituteofProfessionalLegalStudies/ or contact us on **028 9097 5699**

or e-mail: **Claire Armstrong** on c.a.armstrong@qub.ac.uk

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