

## The Editor speaks...

When looking back over the last 3 months in the social housing world the one thing that stands out is of course the tragic events that took place at Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017. 15 days later a public inquiry was announced into the fire to be led by Sir Martin Moore-Bick, and the Prime Minister agreed and published the [terms of reference](#) to the inquiry on 15 August 2017. [Matt Lewin](#) has written a short article in this newsletter on how local housing authorities can respond to such an emergency, and it is clear that the public inquiry will not be the end of the matter whether that be on an [individual](#), investigative or wider policy basis.

Elsewhere, the Government has announced its intention to commence the provisions in the [Homelessness Reduction Act 2017](#) in April 2018, with regulations under the Act being laid this winter. We at Cornerstone Barristers have been very busy in dealing with this legislation, both in an advisory and training capacity. In our last newsletter [Matt Lewin looked](#) at the opportunities and challenges arising from this important piece of legislation.

As a chambers we continue to be extremely busy across all disciplines, and we are approaching one of the most important events in the Housing Team's calendar, the Annual Housing Conference. This is on [4 October 2017](#) and is the penultimate occasion in our seminar year. Before that [Zoe](#) and I are presenting a [disrepair seminar](#) on 6 September 2017, whilst on 1 November 2017 we finish the year with a session on [anti-social behaviour](#).

On a personal level, I am coming to the end of writing the latest in the Cornerstone Barristers' series of books – [Cornerstone on Social Housing Fraud](#) – which would not have been possible without the patience of my clerking team and publishers (and family), the support of senior management and wonderful assistance of my colleagues.

Finally, one of our editors (Clare Gilbey) is leaving us for pastures new and I would like to wish her all the very best. She has been a wonderful colleague and, along with Lauren, has somehow managed to translate my ramblings and incoherent emails into an impressive product that is this newsletter. Good luck.

**Andy Lane**  
Cornerstone Barristers  
August 2017