

The Editor speaks...

The lead-up to the Housing and Planning Act 2016, and the eventual passing of this important piece of legislation on 12 May 2016, took up much of the housing spotlight over the last 12 months, and the “fall-out” continues today and will do so for some time to come. This is not least because of its dependence on regulations largely yet to be published.

We hope you enjoyed our [special edition newsletter](#) produced at the end of May 2016 to cover the Act.

This newsletter reverts to the general social housing field, and covers a range of issues hopefully of interest to those operating from within this area of law.

And so we have some “old favourites” – a wonderful analysis of the Court of Appeal’s recent consideration of suspended possession orders by Catherine Rowlands for example, and an essential overview of fixed term tenancies by Emma Dring to give two examples.

Jack Parker and Zoë Whittington take a look at two recent higher courts’ decisions affecting homelessness matters, whilst Kuljit Bhogal, who will be chairing the Resolve Annual Conference in November, looks at the increasingly important subject of unlawful profit orders.

Catherine even manages to make disrepair interesting by considering the Supreme Court judgment in *Edwards v Kumarasamy* (Ben Du Feu has also written on this in the most recent SHLA newsletter).

On a more “macro” level Kelvin Rutledge QC gives a masterly explanation of the Homelessness Reduction Bill 2016, whilst Dean Underwood bravely tackles the vexed topic of Brexit and its possible impact on social housing.

Reference to the Homelessness Reduction Bill reminds me that things are very different in parts of the United Kingdom other than England, and Clare Parry provides an impressive glimpse at the Welsh Assembly’s housing plans, with a particular focus on the scrapping of the ever controversial right to buy.

This newsletter also includes details of the 4th seminar in our Annual Housing Programme – Hoarding and Mental Capacity on 7 September 2016 - as well as the Annual Housing Day on 4 October 2016. We hope to see as many of you as possible at those events.

As chambers undergoes extensive physical refurbishment to improve facilities to clients, staff and members alike, so we hope that this newsletter fits in well with our advice and advocacy expertise, training commitments, e-flashes and social media output to ensure the best service possible is offered to our clients.

Finally, I cannot go without mentioning the untimely death of our friend and colleague, Bryan McGuire QC. This has inevitably provided the lead article of this newsletter. Bryan was a warm and generous person, and a brilliant and inspirational lawyer who will be sadly missed by all. Our commiserations go to his family.

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