

The Editor speaks...

This is the first Housing Newsletter of 2017...a very belated happy new year!

Housing has remained very high on the national agenda over the last three months, not only with an increased focus and concern on the rising problem of [street homelessness](#) but also in anticipation of the [long-awaited](#) Housing White Paper and the detail of the government plans to increase affordable housing supply. Indeed, by the time you read this the Paper may well have been produced, and a formal response will be forthcoming from the Housing and Planning Teams at Cornerstone Barristers

As usual in the Newsletter, we have tried to produce a range of informative, diverse and relevant articles – the Homelessness Reduction Bill, possession of hospital beds and delayed discharge, permission to issue warrants of possession, a Briggs reform update, a Housing & Planning Act 2016 update, homelessness and the Equality Act 2010, and an update on the Neighbourhood Planning Bill - alongside the usual case-law and housing development features.

We were delighted to hear last month that team member [Matt Hutchings](#) was appointed Queen's Counsel. A brilliant lawyer and tough opponent (I know!), this appointment is richly deserved. Well done to [Paul](#) and [Tom](#) too.

As for forthcoming events I would highlight two of these, both referred to elsewhere in the newsletter. Firstly, the 2017 Cornerstone Housing Seminar Programme has been prepared, with [Jon Holbrook](#) leading the first one on the crucial topic of [fixed term and flexible tenancies](#) on 15 March 2017. A true not to miss event.

Secondly, is the inaugural Bryan McGuire QC memorial [lecture](#) on homelessness on 5 April 2017. This is the first of an annual series of lectures on homelessness in memory of the much missed Bryan, with HHJ Luba QC as guest speaker.

Finally, I can report that two further books in the Cornerstone series are planned - [Cornerstone on Social Housing Fraud](#) and [Cornerstone on mandatory, additional and selective licensing](#) – written by myself and [Dean Underwood](#) respectively.

So enjoy the read and a big thank you to the rest of the editorial team and all contributors.

Andy Lane
Cornerstone Barristers
February 2017