



**An Ghníomhaireacht  
Tithíochta  
The Housing Agency**

# **HOUSING PRACTITIONERS' CONFERENCE 2025**

## **WORKSHOP GUIDE**

**SESSION 1: 11.45AM – 1.00PM**

**SESSION 2: 3.50PM – 5.00PM**

**RADISSON BLU HOTEL, ATHLONE  
CO. WESTMEATH**

**10 APRIL 2025**

**#HOUSINGCONFERENCE2025**



An Ghníomhaireacht  
Tithíochta  
The Housing Agency

# WORKSHOPS: SESSION 1

**11:45AM - 13:00PM**

TITLE	LOCATION
<b>COST RENTAL HOUSING - CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>MARINA SUITE 1</b>
<b>RCT, VAT AND STAMP DUTY FOR SOCIAL AND AFFORDSABLE HOUSING</b>	<b>MARINA SUITE 2</b>
<b>YOUTH HOMELESSNESS AND PREVENTION MEASURES</b>	<b>MARINA SUITE 3</b>
<b>VACANT PROPERTIES - SUPPORTS AND OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>NORTHGATE SUITE</b>
<b>REGULATION OF OMCS: WHERE ARE WE NOW?</b>	<b>DE CONSTEIN SUITE</b>

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# WORKSHOPS: SESSION 2

**15:50PM - 17:00PM**

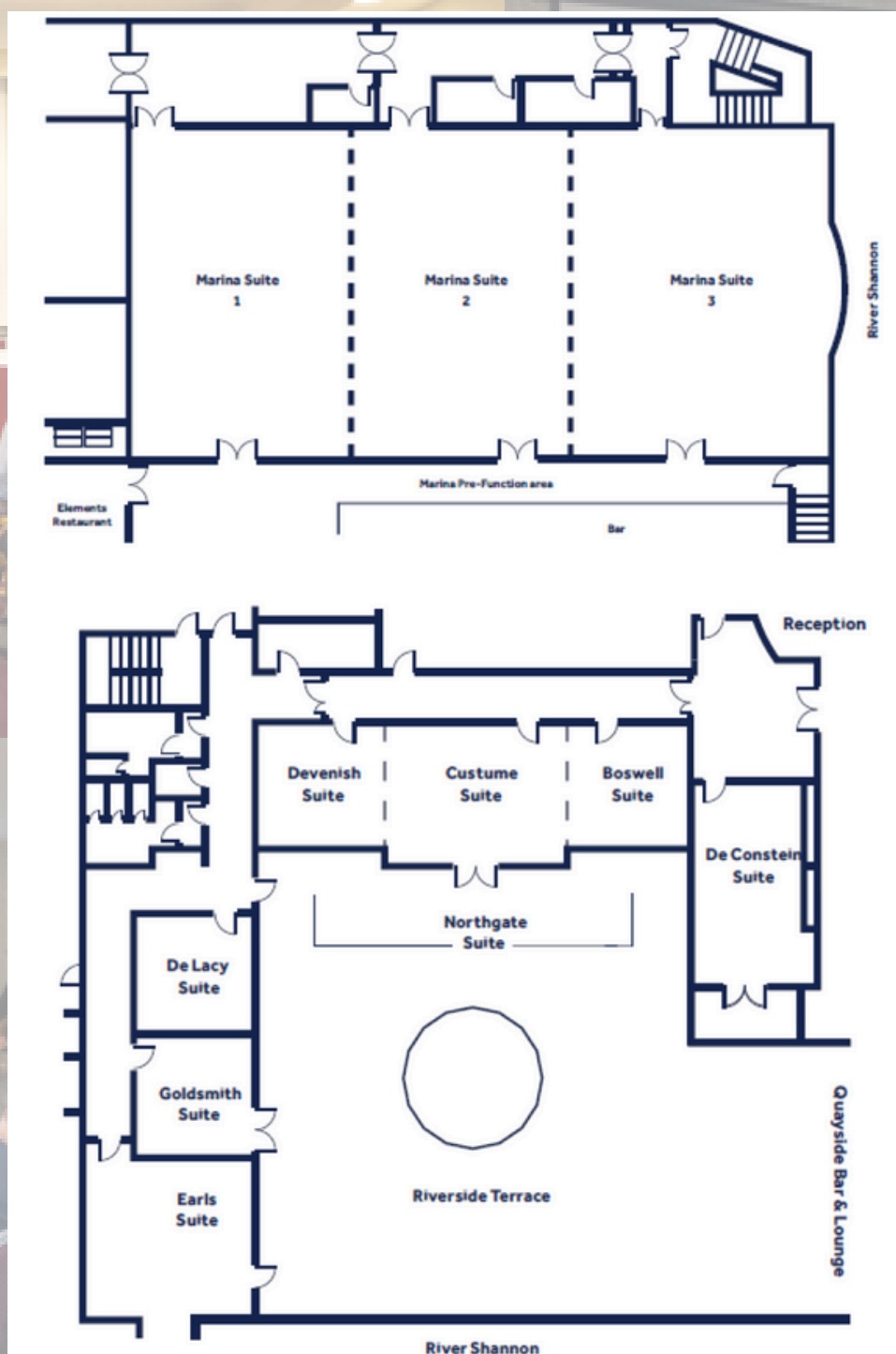
TITLE	LOCATION
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN HOUSING ADMINISTRATION	MARINA SUITE 1
AFFORDABLE PURCHASE HOUSING IN PRACTICE	MARINA SUITE 2
BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES IN MIXED TENURE ESTATES	MARINA SUITE 3
TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICE IN SOCIAL HOUSING - HOW DO WE GET THERE?	NORTHGATE SUITE
DESIGN AND BUILD: PUBLIC PROCUREMENT TO FACILITATE MMC	DE CONSTEIN SUITE
HOUSING INSIGHTS: CASE STUDIES ON DERELICTION, SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND OFFICE TO RESIDENTIAL CONVERSION	EARLS SUITE

**#HOUSINGCONFERENCE2024**



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# WORKSHOP LOCATIONS



#HOUSINGCONFERENCE2025



# WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

## SESSION 1: COST RENTAL HOUSING – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

This workshop will include presentations from current cost rental providers, offering an insight into their experience in delivering cost rental homes, setting up cost rental schemes, managing and maintaining homes, and allocating dwellings to tenants. The workshop will facilitate discussion on some of the challenges encountered, lessons learned and provide an update on recent amendments to cost rental legislation.

- Speakers:** Chair: Rob Murtagh, Administrative Officer, The Housing Agency
- Aoife Lawler, SEO, Fingal County Council
  - Martin Loughran, Chief Commercial and Development Officer, Tuath Housing
  - Sarah Cooney, Principal Officer, DHLGH

## SESSION 1: RCT, VAT AND STAMP DUTY FOR SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

This workshop will deliver an update on current issues in relation to RCT, VAT and Stamp Duty on social and affordable housing. It will discuss the ongoing engagement and coordination across the sector and the work being undertaken by the LGMA.

- Speakers:** Chair: Jim Baneham, Director of Delivery and Innovation, The Housing Agency
- Ray Rochford, Finance and Business Programme Manager, LGMA
  - Katie O'Connor, Director of Finance, Galway County Council

## SESSION 1: REGULATION OF OMCS: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The Programme for Government contains a commitment to move responsibility for the Multi-Unit Developments Act 2011 to the Department of Housing, to streamline support for owners' management companies (OMCs) and improve oversight.

In addition, the Programme commits to the establishment in the Housing Agency of a unit to regulate OMCs to ensure effective governance.

Informed by a panel of expert speakers, the MUDs Workshop will consider these commitments, and how they might affect the sector.

- Speakers:** Chair: David Rouse, MUD Advisory, The Housing Agency.
- Pat Montague, Spokesman for the MUD Reform Group
  - Niall Duffy, Head of Income & Commercial Services, Tuath Housing



# WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

## SESSION 1: YOUTH HOMELESSNESS AND PREVENTION MEASURES

The aim of this workshop is to encourage discussion among participants and exchange good practice in the delivery and provision of homeless services and prevention interventions for young people. There will be presentations on the current profile of Youth Homelessness in Ireland and on a number of projects targeted at young people at different stages of prevention intervention.

Following the presentations there will be time for participants to engage directly with each other and the panel to ask questions, share views and contribute to discussions on good practice in supporting young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

- Speakers:**
- Bevin Herbert, SEO, Housing and Community Services, DCC
  - Neil Forsyth, Head of Youth Services, Focus Ireland
  - Gráinne Carew, Homelessness Policy, Funding and Delivery, DHLGH

## SESSION 1: VACANT PROPERTIES – SUPPORTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

This workshop will involve presentations and a panel discussion on supports that are available to bring vacant properties back into use. Subjects that will be covered include The Government's Vacant Homes Action Plan, experience of town regeneration and experience of supports such as the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, Repair and Leasing Scheme and the Buy and Renew Scheme.

- Speakers:**
- James Beggan, DHLGH
  - Nicola Lawler, Carlow County Council
  - Walter Holden, Waterford City and County Council







# WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

## SESSION 2: AFFORDABLE PURCHASE HOUSING IN PRACTICE

This workshop aims to provide practical information for local authority affordable purchase housing practitioners with presentations focusing on the conveyancing process, outsourcing the assessment of applications, and preparing your LA AHF Reserve return.

**Speakers:** Chair: Catriona Lawlor, The Housing Agency

- Kevin McFlynn, Legal Advisor, The Housing Agency
- Trish Matthews, Fingal County Council
- Laura Behan, DHLGH

## SESSION 2: TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICE IN SOCIAL HOUSING - HOW DO WE GET THERE?

This workshop will give an overview of Trauma Informed Care / Practice. Each panel member will give insights into their experiences in terms of good, not so good and how we can improve this area. The final 10 minutes will focus on the training needs of staff to explore how a safe and equalised work environment for staff to provide appropriate support to applicants and tenants can be achieved.

**Speakers:** Chair: Rob Lowth, Head of Housing First, The Housing Agency

- Triona O'Connor, Program Manager, Genio
- Eileen Gleeson, Housing Agency Board Member and former Director of the Dublin Region Homeless Executive
- Louisa Carr, Director of Services, Respond

## SESSION 2: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

This workshop will include a presentation on the imminent roll-out of Project Díon by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. It will focus on how the Díon system will modernise the application and approvals process for all Department-funded housing programmes and ensure better information flows between the Department, local authorities, Approved Housing Bodies and other key stakeholders involved in housing delivery. The workshop will also consider what further advances could and should be made into the medium term, utilising available technology to build further on the benefits of this centralised, real-time digital platform.

**Speakers:** Chair: Pat Fitzpatrick, Acting Director - Services and Inclusion, The Housing Agency

- Mairéad Ross, Principal Officer, DHLGH
- Melanie Ryan, DHLGH



# WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

## SESSION 2: BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES IN MIXED TENURE ESTATES

This workshop will explore the challenges and opportunities facing local authorities and AHBs in building mixed tenure and mixed income communities. It will also look at delivering and managing Part V housing in private estates, mixed estates with social housing and affordable purchase housing and/or cost rental housing.

**Speakers:** Chair: Jim Baneham, Director of Delivery and Innovation, The Housing Agency

- Catherine Keenan, Director of Service for Housing, DLRCC
- Alison O'Rourke, Director of Service for Housing, Cork City Council
- Neil Bolton, Director of Housing, Respond

## SESSION 2: DESIGN AND BUILD: PUBLIC PROCUREMENT TO FACILITATE MMC

This workshop will examine how can Design & Build procurement can be utilised to encourage MMC and discuss what are the advantages of MMC and standardisation in housing delivery.

**Speakers:**

- Diarmuid McGowan, Senior QS and Design & Build Advisor, DHLGH
- Ruth Hurley, Project Manager, Housing Delivery Co-ordination Office
- William Bell, The Housing Agency

## SESSION 2: HOUSING INSIGHTS, CASE STUDIES ON DERELICTION, SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND OFFICE TO RESIDENTIAL CONVERSION

The Housing Agency's Housing Insights series seeks to promote and disseminate good practice in housing and innovative solutions among housing practitioners in Ireland. This workshop will explore three recent case studies, one on Office-to-Residential conversion, one on Sustainable Infrastructure in the Cherrywood Development and one about Limerick City and Council's approach to compulsory acquisitions.

**Speakers:** Chair: Roslyn Molloy, Head of Policy, Practice and Communications, The Housing Agency

- Anne Devine, Director of Service, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council
- Audrey Crowe, Administrative Officer, Limerick City and County Council
- Rosemary Hennigan, Research and Policy Coordinator, Tuath Housing
- Johanna Wiedermann, Policy Officer, The Housing Agency
- Nicola Turley, Policy Officer, The Housing Agency