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Welcome to the February issue of SHLA Newsletter

It is hard to believe we are already in February; we hope all our members have eased into 2024 and are looking forward to some of the events SHLA has planned over the coming months.



We are always looking for articles from our members. If you would like to submit an article then please contact info@shla.org.uk for more details.

We are grateful to those who have provided articles for this newsletter. Readers will be able to enjoy articles from:

- Donna McCarthy, Partner and Head of Housing Management & Property Litigation at Devonshires considering the new Government consultation on social housing allocation;
- Gabrielle Davies, Associate at Hugh James Solicitors who discusses *Jalili v Bury Council* in practice and how it helped a client reduce a cost bill on assessment from £9,693.00 to £260 plus £750 for the expert report;
- Rupert Graham-Evans, Partner at Blake Morgan who has provided a note on LGPS employer exits and surpluses; and,
- Victoria Smith, Solicitor at Devonshires taking a look at the Housing Ombudsman's latest spotlight report.

All of our articles can be found in the member's area [here](#)

Enjoy the read!

Sarah Salmon & Katerina Birkeland

Annual conference



The big event is SHLA's annual conference. It is being held on 14 March 2024. Attendees will be able to listen to a range of speakers on a variety of topics from disrepair to leasehold to costs. It is also always a great place to meet up with social housing colleagues.

We are delighted to start the day with our keynote speaker Jonathan Walters who is the Deputy Chief Executive of the Regulator of Social Housing. In addition, we will hear from Judge Nicola Carr – First Tier Tribunal, (Property Chamber) London Region in our popular “view from the bench” session.

We would also like to give a shout out to, and thank, our sponsors.

- [Total Housing Solutions](#) who are our main sponsors this year (as well as sponsoring the drinks reception). They will be an exhibitors and Alex Bagnall will be speaking to delegates about costs.

- [Field Court Chambers](#) sponsor the gift bags
- [42 Bedford Row](#) are sponsoring the notepads
- We also have two breakout session sponsors: [Devonshires](#) and [Five Paper](#).

**REMINGTON HALL****45** GRAY'S INN SQUARE**Devonshires****42BR**
BARRISTERS**five**
paper

More information about the day, the sponsors and the booking form can be found [here](#).

Webinars

On 16 February 2024, SHLA are hosting the webinar “What has Churchill done for us?”. Join us for a discussion of the arguments in *Churchill v Merthyr Tydfil CBC* with Elizabeth England who represented SHLA as an intervener in the case.

Registration details can be found [here](#).



In person seminars



On 27 February 2024 at 18:00 - 19:00, SHLA Midlands is hosting a Housing Conditions Update which will take place at Weightmans LLP 103 Colmore Row, Birmingham. Chaired expertly by SHLA committee member Dorota Pawlowski, Matthew Lake of Weightmans will examine the key points of the consultation - Awaab's Law - The future? Attendees will also hear from Richard Dewsbery, barrister at St Ives Chambers who considers three topics dealt with in short form which may reduce the risks of a costly claim.

The seminar is free to members. More information and registration details can be found [here](#).

SHLA Wales



The Wales subcommittee would like to share details of a session CHC - Community Housing Cymru - are hoping to run for in-house solicitors at RSLs. CHC would like to bring together in-house legal colleagues from across its membership for a one-off session in 2024 to reflect on the collective approach to scrutinising legislation. CHC hope to reflect on lessons from the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016, and consider how it can strengthen its approach ahead of expected legislation on homelessness and building safety in this Government term.

SHLA Membership



If you have any further questions please contact us at
info@shla.org.uk



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