



# shla

## Social Housing Law Association

Newsletter

### NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2024



## Welcome to the November issue of the SHLA Newsletter

Winter is coming... but there's no need to wait for this month's updates, articles and events.

**A year on from Churchill... Here to Stay**

This month the Newsletter Committee: Iris Ferber KC (42BR Barristers), Dambu Tenner (Solicitor and Head of Legal, Abri) and Imran Mustak (Solicitor and Legal Manager, L&Q) look at how *Churchill v Merthyr Tydfil Council [2023] EWCA Civ 1416* has influenced civil legal proceedings in the last 12 months.

### Articles and Legal Updates

Our brilliant and talented SHLA committee member Elizabeth England of Five Paper, has written us two articles both focusing on *Churchill – a year on* and its influence on:

- The Civil Procedure Rules
- The Court's approach to ADR

Finally, we look at a county court disrepair case which was stayed to enable the parties to engage with the social landlord's internal complaints procedure (ICP).

All our articles can be found in the members' area of the SHLA website, [here](#).

- **Speaking of disrepair - useful tip**

Standard directions published by HM Court Service, that can be used in disrepair claims are published [here](#) (labelled "Housing disrepair - single joint expert - paper order"). We find these are rarely used but can assist in avoiding delay and would encourage all members to make use of them in their disrepair cases.

### Webinars

October saw a packed programme of webinars:

- On 16 October, Nicholas Grundy KC (Five Paper Barristers): considered the main powers of the Housing Ombudsman, how the current Ombudsman is interpreting those powers, and how the Ombudsman's decisions can be challenged.
- On 2 October Andrew Lane (Cornerstone Barristers) and Stephanie Toghil (Vice-Chair of the Tenancy Fraud Forum) presented a webinar, on "*Short-term lets and Subletting*". Andy and Stephanie are leaders in the field of Tenancy Fraud.
- On 30 October Iris Ferber KC and Elizabeth England considered the issues raised in *Khan & Anr v D'Aubigny* (due to be heard in the Court of Appeal in December 2024). A discussion on the current law relating to service of notices, including basic definitions, statutory deeming provisions, and getting service right.
- On 14 November, we had the Renter's Right Bill webinar hosted by Samantha Grix and Rebecca Brady solicitors at Devonshires.

We hope you were able to join these excellent events. Members can view the recordings [here](#).

## Still to come

- On 5 December, Katrina Robinson MBE, Victoria Smith and Andrew Lane will focus on Tackling Tenancy Fraud in Wales. If you haven't already booked your place you can do so [here](#).

## SHLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025 - BOOKING IS NOW OPEN!

Details of our sponsorship opportunities, early early bird ticket options and preview of our programme can be found [here](#).



We hope you have found this newsletter useful. [Please do give us your feedback](#), and join us for our next event.

If you are not a SHLA member and would like more information, please email [info@shla.org.uk](mailto:info@shla.org.uk).

Dambu Tenner  
SHLA Committee

Email [info@shla.org.uk](mailto:info@shla.org.uk)

