

THE SPEL CONFERENCE 2017


Anticipating and Preparing for Change

Thursday 21 September 2017

- the COSLA Conference Centre, Edinburgh



*The conference is sponsored by
Terra Firma Chambers*



The 26th SPEL Conference takes place in the run up to the publication of the Planning White Paper towards the end of the year. Although the precise nature of change is not yet known, we can speculate where it may happen and what the consequences might be. As we anticipate what a future planning system is going to look like, planning reform is not the only driver of change. The process of Brexit will also impact on planning.

Against this background, a number of high profile speakers will consider how change is likely to shape their various areas of expertise and its likely impact on planning in Scotland.

Widely regarded as the foremost annual planning law event in Scotland, the SPEL Conference attracts key speakers and senior figures from a range of backgrounds and affords the opportunity to engage in high level discussion and debate.

Highlights

- ❁ *Environmental legislation post Brexit*
- ❁ *Community Empowerment Act 2015 and Land Reform Act 2016*
- ❁ *The delivery of homes and infrastructure*
- ❁ *Review of significant case law*

PROGRAMME

09.00 Registration and coffee

09.45 **Chair's Welcome and Introduction**
Stuart Gale QC, Terra Firma Chambers

09.50 Keynote Address:
The "Distinctiveness" of the Scottish Planning System
Greg Lloyd, Professor Emeritus, Ulster University & Visiting Professor, Wageningen University
Set in the context of Brexit, the performance of planning and its modernisation, this presentation asks the question - is planning fit for purpose?

10.10 Questions

10.20 **Scotland's Future Energy Strategy**
Rt Hon. Brian Wilson, former UK Energy Minister, Chairman, Harris Tweeds Hebrides, UK Business Ambassador
In a year of multiple consultations, plans and statements on energy, climate change and potential sources, a commentary on how our challenging targets are likely to be met.

10.40 Questions

10.50 **The Future for Environmental Legislation post Brexit**
Laura Tainsh, Partner, Davidson Chalmers
An examination of the extent of the task at hand to ensure that the essential elements of environmental law are retained, how can the existing principles and policies be future-proofed and what are the potential pitfalls going forward.

11.10 Questions

11.20 Refreshments

11.35 **Scotland's Community Empowerment Journey and Implications for Planning Law and Practice**
Ian Turner, Community Empowerment Team Leader, Scottish Government
Robert Sutherland, Terra Firma Chambers
An overview of the provisions of the Community Empowerment Act 2015 and Land Reform Act 2016 as these move towards implementation, and a consideration of key legal issues and implications.

11.55 Questions

12.05 **Planning Case Law Roundup (1)**
Alasdair Sutherland, Terra Firma Chambers
Review and analysis of recent significant cases

12.25 Questions

12.35 L U N CH

PROGRAMME

13.30 **Panel Session - Will Planning Reform Assist the Delivery of More New Homes?
(Chaired by Terra Firma Chambers)**

Fraser Carlin, Head of Planning & Housing, Renfrewshire Council

Professor David Adams, Ian Mactaggart Chair of Property & Urban Studies, University of Glasgow

Dr John Boyle, Director, Research & Strategy, Rettie & Co

Pauline Mills, Land & Planning Director, Taylor Wimpey

Panelists will address the questions from their own backgrounds and perspectives.

Short presentations outlining key points will be followed by the opportunity for Q&A.

Topics for discussion include current barriers to the delivery of homes and infrastructure, the potential for setting housing targets at a national level and the role of local authorities in meeting housing demand and need.

14.30 **Planning Case Law Roundup (2)**

Mark Mohammed, Terra Firma Chambers

Review and analysis of recent significant cases

14.50 Questions

15.00 Refreshments

15.15 **Delivering Inclusive Growth - The Purpose of Planning**

Ross Martin, Economic Agitator discusses the role of planning in Scotland's economy

15.35 Questions

15.45 **Final Comments/Questions and Close of Conference**

