

Programme 2020

Dates and Topics

August 12th

Housing and the new Programme for Government

It is early days yet but the Programme for Government contains plenty of interest for those working in the housing sector. In this webinar we review what we know so far and consider what this tells us about the future direction of housing policy.

September 16th

Affordable Housing

What is needed to increase the supply of affordable housing?

One of the key aims of the new government is to increase the supply of affordable housing. But how can this be achieved in the current uncertain environment? What can we learn from past initiatives and is there a role for affordable renting?

October 14th

Social Housing Support

What is the future for rental assistance?

There are three main streams of state support for households living in the private rented sector – Rent Supplement, Rental Accommodation Scheme and Housing Assistance Payments. But they work in very different ways and the government has indicated its intent to reduce dependency on this type of support. In this webinar we look at how realistic this is and what other options exist?

November 11th

Social Housing Delivery

How far are we from meeting end of year targets?

As we approach the end of the calendar year and attention is once again focussed on achieving annual output targets, this webinar reviews the state of progress. It will also look at what changes in approach are evident under the new government and what the plans are for 2021. At this point we should have a better sense of the transition from or movements within *Rebuilding Ireland*.

December 10th

Homeless Services

Managing homeless services in difficult times

So far the various housing bodies concerned have done well in addressing the immediate challenges for homeless persons during the pandemic. But what of the future? In this webinar we look at what changes, if any, are needed in the way in which services are delivered in Ireland.

Indicative Topics for 2021

For the 2021 Forum we have a number of indicative topics including New Challenges for Housing Associations; Regulation of the Private Rental Sector; Housing and the Green Agenda; Housing Needs Assessments 2020; What remains of the Social Housing Reform Agenda, and Changes to Planning and Building codes. We will also solicit feedback from Forum members on what topics they would like to see covered. Details on the 2021 Forum will be sent out in November.



The Forum is managed by

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Housing Forum Programme 2020

Supporting housing for all

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Supporting housing for all

The Housing Forum is an initiative of the Institute of Public Administration in conjunction with the Housing Agency to create a platform from which persons working in housing can build their knowledge about what is happening in the sector. The Housing Forum offers monthly online webinars; a repository of resource material including reports, research documents, and relevant housing literature and articles and a network for housing practitioners working across the public, voluntary and private housing sectors to develop a platform for best practice. Forum membership is available to organisations and includes local authorities, housing associations, state bodies and private sector organisations including financial institutions.

Housing is important for the national economy and for society. The new government is faced with the need to design effective public policies and to create a supportive regulatory environment to meet the housing objectives set out in the programme for government. But getting the policy right is only the start of the process – it also has to be implemented. For this the key requirement is for a well-resourced body of housing professionals working mainly in local government and the voluntary sector.

Housing is a complex system, embedded in the economic and social system of the country. More than ever there is a requirement for knowledgeable, experienced and well-skilled individuals capable of making difficult decisions and providing key services to the public in a fair and efficient manner. The IPA Housing Forum provides such individuals with the information, knowledge and skills to undertake their challenging roles

Membership 2020 (Aug – Dec)

The Forum is open to organisations working in the housing area or with a special interest in housing.

Forum members will have access to the Members' Area on the website where they will benefit from additional resources. In order to facilitate multiple individuals from within Local Authorities, Approved Housing Bodies, State Bodies and other public or private organisations to attend the Forum the fee is €600 per organisation. This entitles the organisation to register any three people to access the monthly webinars and if there are more than 3 people who want to participate a further discounted price of €50 per person per event is payable. Anyone registered prior to August 12th will receive access to our Housing and the new Programme for Government webinar. The cut-off date for payment of membership fees is Friday, September 4th. For any membership queries please email housingforum@ipa.ie.

What you receive as a Member

Membership of the Housing Forum will entitle you to the following:

- Access to monthly webinars on current housing topics,
- an online repository of material on housing [articles, reports etc] through the members' area
- an outlet for submitting questions and sourcing information about systems and practices

Support Team

The Forum will be managed by a dedicated team within the IPA as well as expert input from the Housing Agency. Speakers will be drawn from among housing practitioners but also from state bodies and agencies, the voluntary sector and the academic world.

The main support teams in the IPA consist of:



Dr Philip Byrne

Philip is working with the IPA for over 28 years and is presently head of the Local Government Unit within the IPA and the Senior Local Government Specialist in the Institute where he is the Director of the key accredited programmes for local government staff.

Philip is responsible for managing a wide range of local authority housing practitioners training programmes and works closely with the DoHPLG and the Housing Agency in the provision of these programmes as well as chairing Cork County Council's Audit Committee. Philip also has considerable international experience, working for the IPA on a number of EU and Department of Foreign Affairs projects, as a Consultant and Trainer in the following countries: Gambia, Zambia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Latvia and Azerbaijan.



Cian Rohan

Cian Rohan is an Assistant Specialist with the Local Government Unit of the IPA and joined the Institute from Cork City Council in January 2020. Cian participates in the delivery of local government training programmes with a particular focus on housing training programmes. Cian completed his MA in International Relations at UCC in 2017. Cian is responsible for managing the Forum and will be your point-of-contact for any queries.



Eddie Lewis

Eddie Lewis is a lecturer on the Housing Studies courses in the IPA and author of Social Housing Policy in Ireland: New Directions. Formerly a Principal Officer in what is now the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government he has worked for many years on the development of housing policy.

The Forum will also be supported by staff from the Housing Agency

