



# CIEH Housing and Health Conference

Programme day one: Wednesday 13 May 2026

09.15 **Registration and online login**

09.30 **Welcome and introduction**

Chair: Mark Hope, Senior Policy and Public Affairs Executive – Policy & Campaigns, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH)

09.35 **Keynote: Government update on the PRS**

- Updates on the Renters' Rights Act, Decent Homes Standard, Awaab's Law, HHSRS and Burdens Funding

Speaker: Robyn Casey, Head of PRS Standards, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG)

10:10 **York University's Enforcement against Criminal Landlords Report – Evaluation and Findings**

Speakers: Professor Caroline Hunter & Dr Kit Colliver, University of York

11:05 **Comfort break & sponsorship videos**

11.20 **National landlord registration: lessons from Wales for England's private rented sector database**

- Exploring the experience of implementing national landlord registration in Wales through Rent Smart Wales, providing valuable insights into what works and what doesn't. What are the challenges and opportunities associated with introducing a national register, including compliance, enforcement, data quality and engagement with landlords?

Speaker: Bethan Jones, Operational Manager, Rent Smart Wales

11:55 **Panel discussion: formal enforcement**

- The Renters' Rights Act promotes a hardening of the approach to landlords in terms of prosecutions and civil penalties because there is no provision for legal notices (e.g. improvement notices) to be used first. What is the future of formal enforcement? What are the challenges around doing more of it? What does this mean for smaller and rural local authorities, and what is happening with civil penalties?

Panellists:

- Dr Henry Dawson, Programme Director Environmental Health, Senior Lecturer in Housing and Public Health, Cardiff Metropolitan University
- Adrian Chowns, Head of Safer Housing and Communities, Coventry City Council
- James Wilson, Head of Environment and Sustainability, Great Yarmouth Borough Council
- David Smith, Partner, Spector Constant & Williams

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12:55 HHSRS update: operating guidance, scoring changes and enforcement implications

Speaker: Dr Henry Dawson, Programme Director Environmental Health, Senior Lecturer in Housing and Public Health, Cardiff Metropolitan University

13.25 **Closing remarks**

13.30 **End of conference**

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