

Pool of independent experts

Mary Taylor

Former CEO

Scottish Federation of Housing Associations, Scotland

The Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA) aim is to support the work of housing associations and co-operatives through positive influence on Government policy and promotion of the work of its members. Mary was CEO of SFHA seven years and previously worked at the University of Stirling teaching and researching on issues related to housing. She is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Housing and an Honorary Fellow of RICS. Finally, she is also a Trustee of the Stirling City Heritage Trust which is responsible for piloting a Traditional Buildings Heathcheck Scheme for Historic Scotland.

Paul Doe

Former CEO, Shepherds Bush Housing Group, UK

Paul Doe has been chief executive of SBHG for 19 years and he has been awarded an MBE for services to housing and voluntary services to tackling homelessness. Paul Doe was also a board member of St Mungo's for 10 years and its chair for 5 years. St Mungo's helps 25,000 people a year across London and the south east. Paul chairs the National Housing Federation Wellbeing and Social Enterprise Group. He is a board member of PlaceShapers, a network of more than 100 community based housing associations. Paul is providing expertise in setting up local projects. Please find here concrete examples of what has and has not worked in London for inspiration: <http://benefittosociety.co.uk/>

Julie Lawson

Honorary Associate Professor

RMIT University, Leiden, South Holland Province, Netherlands

Her career as an urban researcher and international housing policy analyst has been guided by a strong commitment to international and interdisciplinary research, knowledge exchange and policy reform. Since her doctorate, she has worked as an associate professor, researcher, lecturer and policy advisor with many well respected international organisations and institutes in the field of urban planning on a wide range of international housing and urban policy issues (UN Habitat, UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), AHURI/RMIT, Economics and Planning/ University of Sydney, City Futures/UNSW, Institute of Housing Studies/Erasmus University Rotterdam, OTB/TU Delft, and Amsterdam Centre for the Metropolitan Environment/University of Amsterdam). She has focused on a range of topics including transformations in urban development and systems of housing provision; federal-state formations and the long term financing of urban policy and programs; comparative security of occupancy in the rental market and the use of guarantees and intermediaries to facilitate long term investment in social infrastructure. She is currently an Honorary Associate Professor at RMIT and Associate Editor of the journal Housing Theory and Society.

Anita Blessing

Marie Curie Research Fellow, Academic Coordinator

University of Birmingham and European Federation for Living

After working at the South Australian Housing Trust and for the Australian Government as a Senior Policy Officer, she continued her career at the University of Amsterdam focusing on finance. Her most recent research called '*Reinvest: Financing affordable housing under localism (2015-2018)*' uses comparative research across US and European settings to address the urban governance challenge of motivating investment in affordable rental housing by large financial institutions, such as banks and pension funds.