

# The Private Rental Sector in Ireland : Through the Pandemic and Beyond



THURSDAY, JULY 1ST 2021



# CONFERENCE AGENDA

**10.30am**

Opening Address - Alan Barrett, ESRI

**10:45am**

**- The Private Rented Sector as part of the Global Housing system  
in a COVID19 world**

Keynote Address - Christine Whitehead, Emeritus Professor of Housing Economics,  
London School of Economics .

**11:30am**

**- COVID19 and Renting**

Chair – Tom Dunne, RTB

- **The Impact of COVID19 on the Irish Rental Market**  
- Prof. Conor O'Toole, ESRI
- **The impact of Covid-19 on private renters in Northern Ireland**  
- Martina McAuley, Housing Rights Northern Ireland
- **Threshold's 2021 Annual Tenant Sentiment Survey**  
- Ann-Marie O'Reilly, Threshold
- **Experience of Renters during the COVID19 pandemic**  
- Michael Byrne, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, UCD.

1-2pm Lunch

**2pm**

**Where to next for Renting and the Irish Housing system?**

Chair – Aideen Hayden, Chair of Threshold

- Pat Farrell, Chief Executive, Irish Institutional Property
- Michelle Norris, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice UCD
- Hugh Brennan, Founder and Chief Executive Officer at O'Cualann Cohousing Alliance
- Joe Frey, Knowledge Exchange Broker for the UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE)
- Christine Whitehead, London School of Economics

**3:15 – 3:30pm**

Closing Address - John-Mark McCafferty, Chief Executive, Threshold

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*Thursday, July 1st 10, 10.30am-3.30pm*

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## ALAN BARRETT

is the CEO of the Economic and Social Research Institute, Ireland's leading centre for policy-oriented social science research. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Michigan State University. He is currently a member of the Northern Ireland Fiscal Council, an honorary member of the Society of Actuaries in Ireland, a member of the Royal Irish Academy and an adjunct professor at TCD. He was a member of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council from 2011-2015.



## HUGH BRENNAN

has worked in construction for the past 40 years. In 2003 he became involved, initially as a volunteer, in humanitarian aid work overseas and then working full-time with the Township Trust in South Africa. From 2011 to 2013 Hugh worked in post-disaster reconstruction with the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) in Haiti. When he returned to Ireland, he set about creating a model to deliver affordable homes based on cohousing models. In 2014 he co-founded Ó Cualann Cohousing Alliance.



## DR MICHAEL BYRNE

is a lecturer in Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice (UCD) and the Director of the Equality Studies MSc. His research focuses on the political economy of the private rental sector. In 2020 he co-authored Threshold's report Security and Agency in the Irish Private Rental Sector. Recent publications include Stay Home: Reflections on the meaning of home and the Covid-19 pandemic (Irish Journal of Sociology), Institutional Investment in the private rental sector in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic (Geary Public Policy Institute), and The impact of Covid-19 on the private rental sector (Geary Public Policy Institute).



## TOM DUNNE

is the Chairperson of the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB), Fellow of the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland and former Head of the School of Surveying & Construction Management, TU Dublin.

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## **PAT FARRELL**

Pat is an experienced senior level business leader with a strong track record of delivery at both at executive and board level across healthcare, banking, financial services, charities and public sectors.

In his current role as CEO, Pat leads IIP which is the voice of institutional property investors in the Irish real estate market with significant international backing. The mission of IIP is to promote the development of a sustainable world class real estate sector in Ireland which benefits members, the economy, communities and wider society. IIP members manage approximately €15bn of Irish property, directly employ almost 6,000 people, indirectly employ a further 23,000 people and IIP tenant companies employ more than 36,000 people.



## **DR JOE FREY**

A former Housing Executive's Head of Research in Northern Ireland for almost twenty years, since leaving NIHE in 2016, Joe has worked as a consultant in a number of housing research roles, including as Chair of the Department for Communities' Housing Market Symposium. He is also a Visiting Professor at Ulster University, where he lectures on the Housing and Real Estate courses. His main role now as part of CaCHE's Knowledge Exchange Team - a role that seeks to provide a bridge between the academic world and the housing sector in Northern Ireland.



## **DR AIDEEN HAYDEN**

is Chairperson of Threshold and a qualified solicitor, with a degree in Economics and History and a PhD in social policy from UCD where she was awarded an Ad Astra Scholarship. Aileen has worked in the field of housing for over two decades. Her key achievements as Chairperson of Threshold have included leading the campaign to improve security of tenure for tenants in Ireland which ultimately resulted in the introduction of the Residential Tenancies Act 2004 and the establishment of the Tenancy Protection Service. Aileen has published a number of reports including a report on the Future of Council Housing with Professor Michelle Norris (2018) and on mixed tenure developments, Rebuilding the Irish Neighbourhood with Bob Jordan (2019). She continues to work for a fairer housing system and aright to housing for all.

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## **DR MARTINA MCAULEY**

Martina has a PhD in Sociology from QUB and has been working as Research and Evaluation Coordinator at Housing Rights since graduating in 2018. During her time at Housing Rights Martina has authored four significant pieces of research focusing on the experience of low income households living in the private rented sector in Northern Ireland, including a recent report focusing on the impact of Covid-19, The 'Perfect Storm': The impact of Covid-19 on private renters in Northern Ireland.



## **JOHN-MARK MCCAFFERTY**

Chief Executive Officer with Threshold, the National Housing Charity, whose aim is to prevent homelessness through advice, tenancy protection and advocacy. For over 25 years, John-Mark has worked on social justice issues in Ireland and Scotland. Prior to Threshold, John-Mark was Head of Social Justice and Policy with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and also represented SVP during Social Partnership programmes and was a National Economic and Social Council (NESC) member. He previously worked for the Combat Poverty Agency in Ireland and also Scottish Homes, the national social housing agency.



## **PROF. MICHELLE NORRIS**

a Professor of Social Policy in UCD School of Applied Social Science, UCD. In 2016, she published Property, Family and the Irish Welfare State. Michelle's work crosses over from academic research to public policy. She is a committee member of the Land Development Agency, the National Economic and Social Council and the Housing Finance Agency (chair, 2012 and 2017). Michelle has also worked as a local government housing manager and between 2000 and 2005, she was the director of the Centre for Housing Research, conducting housing research and policy.

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## **ANN-MARIE O'REILLY**

With ten years' experience of working in frontline homeless services, Ann-Marie has seen first-hand the impact of homelessness on thousands of people. A graduate of Maynooth University, she holds a Masters of Social Science, a Master of Arts and a Professional Diploma in Human Rights.



## **PROF. CONOR O'TOOLE**

an Associate Research Professor at the Economic and Social Research Institute where he works in the areas of housing and household financing, enterprise and corporate finance and banking. He contributes to the ESRI's macroeconomic forecasting group as an author of the Quarterly Economic Commentary. He is also a member of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Real Estate Market Advisory Group.



## **PROF. CHRISTINE WHITEHEAD**

Christine Whitehead is Emeritus Professor in Housing Economics at the London School of Economics and Deputy Director of LSE London. Christine is an internationally respected applied economist concentrating mainly in the fields of housing economics, finance and policy. She has worked with a wide range of international agencies as well as regularly for the UK government and Parliament. She was awarded the OBE for services to housing in 1991.