



Glasgow and West of Scotland
Forum of Housing Associations

Annual Conference 2023

Investing in our homes and communities

Friday 1 December
9.00am – 3.45pm
Radisson Blu Hotel, Glasgow



- 9.00am – 9:45am** **Registration**
- 9.45am – 9.55am** **Welcome from the Chair**
John Hamilton, Barrhead HA
- 9.55am – 10.25am** **Ministerial address**
Paul McLennan, Minister for Housing
- 10.25am – 10.35am** **Address from our Director**
David Bookbinder, Director, GWSF
- 10.35am – 11.05am** **Why does poverty affect health so much?**
Prof. Chik Collins, Director, Glasgow Centre for Population Health

The notion that poverty has a big impact on health and leads to excess mortality rates isn't new, but are we any closer to dealing with it? Even at a time when the cost of living crisis is driving up child and family poverty, are there ways of avoiding this having a direct effect on health? Is there still a 'lifestyles' aspect to this challenge or are lifestyles just a result of not having enough money?

- 11.05am – 11.30am** **What next for Scotland politically and constitutionally?**
Prof. John Curtice, University of Strathclyde

Our Conference takes place almost exactly half way through the current Scottish Parliamentary term, with the next Election due in May 2026. There has been greater turmoil than anyone could have expected a year ago, and the new First Minister has had a challenging start to his time in office. Can we now assume that 2026 will see a return to minority governments and the need for alliances? And what's the current appetite among Scots for independence?

- 11.30am – 11.55am** **Break and Exhibition Viewing**
- 12.00pm – 1.15pm** **Workshops – topics and presenters tbc – see below**
- 1.15pm – 2.10pm** **Lunch and Exhibition Viewing**
- 2.15pm – 3.00pm** **Grenfell: have we really learned the lessons?**
Cllr Emma Dent Coad, London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea,
author and former Member of Parliament

The Grenfell tragedy was initially a case of fire and buildings, but soon became just as much a story about communication between people and organisations. In her recent book *One Kensington* Emma Dent Coad lays bare what she describes as the appalling degree of mismanagement and neglect that has made her area a grim symbol of an ever more divided country: what happens when local government is pared to the bone and the culture isn't – and never was – one of respecting and looking after people. But through the depth of community connections and tireless political organising, it also suggests a potentially hopeful future for a new Britain.

3.00pm – 3:45pm **The power of local and the battle against ‘big is better’ – who’s winning?**
Dr Oliver Escobar, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh

Influential academic Oliver Escobar has long championed the need for genuinely local democracy. But in a nation where local democratic structures are larger than almost anywhere else in Europe, how easy is it for people to genuinely effect change? Is the Scottish Government’s latest Democracy Matters initiative helpful or just tokenistic? And where do community anchor organisations fit into this - can we legitimately claim to act on behalf of local people?

3.40pm – 3.45pm **Chair’s final remarks**

3.45pm – 3.55pm **Close of Conference**

Workshops 12-1.15pm

Workshop sessions will be finalised in the coming weeks but are highly likely to include the following issues:

- **Rents: taking the heat out of the annual rent consultation**
- **Retrofit for EESSH2 – a focus on two pilot projects**
- **Tenancy sustainment support – successes and challenges**
- **Carrying out a strategic options appraisal**

Bookings for this conference are being managed by SHARE.

You can book below at:

<https://www.share.org.uk/upcoming-courses/events-networks/gwsf-annual-conference-2023>

or by email at:

gwsfevents@share.org.uk

Cancellation policy

Please note a 50% cancellation fee will apply should you cancel your booking within two weeks of the event.

The full cost will be incurred for cancellations/no show on the day of the event.