RICS Regional Virtual Conference, Northern Ireland
Thursday 17 September 2020

The RICS Regional Virtual Conference, Northern Ireland will address the top issues for local surveyors and professionals working in the property, construction and rural industries. With a mix of industry updates, real-life examples and cases studies, the conference will help you implement new principles and technologies to reduce risk and operational costs.

Four separate conference streams are tailored to the specific needs of surveyors in different industries including:

- Building Surveying and Valuation
- Planning and Construction
- Residential and Commercial Property
- Rural, Environment and Land

Join us for a day packed with learning that will support your practice, along with an opportunity to network with your peers and access a wealth of useful resources in our virtual conference environment.

Cost:

Early bird rate [by 30 July]
- RICS members - £99 + VAT
- Non RICS members - £159 + VAT

Standard rate [after 30 July]
- RICS members - £119 + VAT
- Non RICS members - £179 + VAT

Book your place today: rics.org/Nlconference

Date: 17 September 2020
08:30 - 17:00

Venue: Virtual
Programme overview

Join us for the latest advice and best available practice to succeed as a surveyor in Northern Ireland - along with plenty of opportunities to network with speakers and fellow attendees in our new and exciting virtual reality conference format.

Choose one stream or move in-between streams

The plenary session will focus on the current state of the UK economy and property market, with particular focus on the impact of COVID-19 in Northern Ireland - including short and mid-term forecasts to help you plan better for your clients and your organisation.

Conference streams

Building Surveying and Valuation
Tackles the impact of COVID-19 on valuations, succeeding in building surveying as a small business post-crisis, and the essentials of fire safety.

Planning and Construction
Assesses the impact of funding infrastructure post COVID-19, how to avoid and resolve construction disputes and explore the potential of modular construction for the sector.

Commercial and Residential Property
Looks at the future of the high street, on guidance for private rented landlords and tenants, and Business Rates in a COVID-19 world.

Rural, Environment and Land
Covers championing sustainability, the effect of disruptive technologies on the property sector and what measures are in place to protect land and buildings from floods.
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<th>Time</th>
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<th>Presenter/Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>08:30</td>
<td>Registration – digital networking</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:20</td>
<td>Opening address from conference chair</td>
<td>Brian Henning, Chair, RICS Northern Ireland Regional Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Welcome to the day</td>
<td>Matthew Howell, Managing Director – UK Markets</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:40</td>
<td>Opening keynote – economic and market outlook for Northern Ireland</td>
<td>· Recognising the macroeconomics of COVID-19 and its impact on NI businesses&lt;br&gt;· Focus on the latest updates on Brexit, timeframes and concerns for organisations in NI&lt;br&gt;· Understanding the economic and investment outlook for the nation post COVID-19&lt;br&gt;· Preparing for the future impact of an economic recession to make your business more resilient&lt;br&gt;Angela McGowan, Director, CBI Northern Ireland</td>
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<td>10:25</td>
<td>Conference break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:35</td>
<td>Welcome addresses from stream chairs</td>
<td>Building Surveying and Valuation – Ronan O’Hara MBA FRICS, SIB Strategic Adviser (Asset Management), Strategic Investment Board</td>
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<td>10:40</td>
<td>Building Surveying and Valuation 1A - Understanding the real impact of COVID-19 on valuations</td>
<td>· Preparing for the long-term consequences of cancelling or postponing valuations&lt;br&gt;· Identifying reliable sources of assessment – will pre-COVID valuations still be valuable indicators?&lt;br&gt;· Learning how real estate valuing has evolved due to the COVID-19 pandemic</td>
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<td>10:40</td>
<td>Planning and Construction 1B - Funding of Infrastructure post COVID-19 – A new decade, a new approach</td>
<td>· Infrastructure and a resilient society. Understanding societies needs versus public financial constraints and the impacts on quality of life&lt;br&gt;· Stakeholders building better infrastructure post COVID-19 and adapting to a bold new vision where critical infrastructure needs are simultaneously assessed with green infrastructure and digital infrastructure needs&lt;br&gt;· Examining the key alternative models of procuring and financing infrastructure to create resilient and healthy communities&lt;br&gt;Dr. Sharon McClements, Lecturer in Built Environment, Ulster University</td>
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<td>10:40</td>
<td>Residential and Commercial Property 1C - The future of the high street in NI - How COVID-19 has affected the retail sector</td>
<td>· Analysing the impact of the pandemic on occupiers in the retail sector to forecast the supply and demand changes&lt;br&gt;· Adapting to the new market reality by understanding the change in retailers’ property requirements&lt;br&gt;· Considering long-term structural shifts and adjustments to the omnichannel world&lt;br&gt;· Enhancing landlord and tenant collaboration to survive in challenging times&lt;br&gt;John Tougher, Associate, A&amp;L Goodbody</td>
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<td>10:40</td>
<td>Rural, Environment and Land 1D - Championing environmental sustainability through more effective surveying</td>
<td>· Driving wellbeing and championing sustainable projects to reduce the impact of urbanisation on the environment&lt;br&gt;· A pathway to achieve sustainable objectives while balancing financial outcomes&lt;br&gt;· Overview of project management solutions that help achieve sustainability goals&lt;br&gt;Tim Hopkin, Founder, The Land App</td>
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<td>11:20</td>
<td>An update from Lionheart on support available to surveyors</td>
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| 11:40 | Building Surveying and Valuation 2A - Succeeding in building surveying as a small business post COVID-19 | • Learn from the experience of successful surveying businesses during the pandemic  
• Tips on effective marketing and client management to increase your market share  
• Effectively tapping into available funding and support schemes to survive during crisis |
|       | Planning and Construction 2B - Avoiding and resolving construction disputes to mitigate financial loss | • Update on Government guidance on enforcing contracts responsibly and using Low Value Adjudication (LVA) models to resolve disputes  
• Understanding which disputes can, and cannot, be dealt with using LVA models  
• Dealing with respondent parties who do not agree to use LVA procedures  
• Re-setting for a Post COVID-19 industry  
  Martin Burns, Head of ADR Research and Development |
|       | Residential and Commercial Property 2C - Private rented landlords and tenants during COVID-19 | • Private Tenancies (Coronavirus Modifications) (Northern Ireland) Act 2020 and its effects on the residential sector  
• Update on property access and HSE obligations for private rented landlords and tenants  
• Understanding how the legislation interacts with the suspension of housing possession claims  
  David Polley, Director of Housing Supply Policy, Department of Communities |
|       | Rural, Environment and Land 2D - The effect of disruptive technologies on the property sector | • How new technology can be leveraged for the benefit of property surveying  
• Examples of current applications and upcoming innovation disrupting the industry  
• Identifying the most effective technologies for your specific needs  
  Michael Hannaway, CEO, Hannaway and Hannaway |
| 12:20 | Conference break | |
| 12:30 | Building Surveying and Valuation 3A - Essential fire safety update – what building surveyors need to know to remain compliant | • Latest update on the key messages from the Grenfell Tower fire inquiry: Phase 1 report  
• The Fire Safety Bill and the application of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005  
• The Building Safety Bill – regulatory regimes for building safety and construction products  
• Enhancing operations on Higher Risk Residential Buildings (HRRBs) to reduce risk |
|       | Planning and Construction 3B - Is modular construction the way forward for the construction sector? | • Understanding the advantages of modular construction for time and cost-saving  
• Using digital technology and BIM to access key data points and forecast errors  
• Going green? The positive effects modular construction has on the environment  
• Considering the pros and cons of modular construction to identify best usage  
  Orla Corr, Executive Chair, The McAvoy Group  
  David Clark, Manufacturing and Innovation Director, The McAvoy Group |
|       | Residential and Commercial Property 3C - Business Rates in a Covid-19 World | • Business Rates Consultation and looking at what lessons were emerging to the consultation and what has happened since.  
• What special Business Rates Reliefs have been given in 2020 and what was the rationale  
• Legislative Update - details of property and rates legislation passed, since the Assembly was restored  
  Alan Bronté FRICS Dip Rating (Hon) IRRV (Hons), Director of Rating and Policy, Rating Policy Division Land & Property Services, Department of Finance |
|       | Rural, Environment and Land 3D - Flood resilience – effective measures to protect land and buildings | • Why is flood resilience so important and what impact does it have on real estate?  
• Understanding insurers’ and bankers’ attitudes towards environmental and flood risks  
• Future challenges for flood resilience in rural areas and how they can be addressed  
  Anthony McCloy, Managing Director, McClory Consulting |
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<td>13:10</td>
<td>Lunch break and virtual networking</td>
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| 14:00 | **Keynote address - Placemaking in a Post-Pandemic Society**            | • Understanding how placemaking has changed in light of COVID-19, and how it will continue to change  
• Identifying the challenges and opportunities for commercial, residential, retail and infrastructure  
• Lessons learnt on best approach to the design of places and placemaking in the future  
Gerry Millar, MRICS                                                                                     |
| 14:15 | **Panel discussion**                                                     | Time dedicated to the audience’s questions in and around placemaking in a post-pandemic society  
Chair: Gerry Millar, MRICS                                                                           |
| 14:45 | Conference break                                                        |                                                                                                                                             |
| 14:55 | **Building Surveying and Valuation**                                    | • What is the legal position for my landlord or tenant?  
• How does a survey help with dealing with asbestos and what kind of survey do I need?  
• Why asbestos is such an expensive problem to have and where does the responsibility lie for disposal?  
Paul McEvoy, Managing Director, AES Macaroni                                                        |
|       | **Planning and Construction**                                           | • How post COVID-19 H&S regulations will impact projects and how to comply  
• Ensuring safe working on construction sites and associated works  
• The long-term challenges for H&S in construction and the effects on future projects               |
|       | **Residential and Commercial Property**                                  | • The Coronavirus Act 2020 and the interim options for landlords and tenants to protect themselves  
• Rights and remedies for commercial landlords and how to deal with tenant insolvencies  
• The COVID-19 impact on current and future commercial leases and challenges for landlords and tenants  
Joe Moore, Partner, Tughans Solicitors                                                                |
|       | **Rural, Environment and Land**                                          | • Gain recent insight from rural valuers in the courts and looking beyond to see how the profession is developing  
• An overview of the whole valuation spectrum, from development appraisals through to valuations for Inheritance Tax purposes  
• A look into Charles’ recent horizon-scanning work with lessons for the present and the future on Biodiversity Net Gain, Carbon Equivalence, the race to net zero, and natural capital valuations  
Charles Cowap, Principal, Terra Pragmatica  
Visiting Professor Harper Adams University                                                             |
<p>| 15:35 | Conference break                                                        |                                                                                                                                             |</p>
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| 15:40 | Building Surveying and Valuation 5A - Red Book – what has changed and how did it stand up to COVID-19 scrutiny? | • Understanding what material valuation uncertainty is and if a declaration is appropriate  
• What you need to know about VPGA 10 and VPS 3 to keep you compliant  
• Consequences of COVID-19 impacting the ability to inspect properties  
• Questions on commercial confidentiality or statutory data protection |
|       | Planning and Construction 5B - Enhancing the Sustainability of Future Housing Provision in Northern Ireland | • Taking stock and reviewing the costs of Northern Ireland’s ‘unique’ housing development pipeline  
• Housing as a catalyst for Belfast city-centre regeneration: Challenges and Opportunities  
• The role of housing provision within the pandemic recovery programme  
**Professor Martin Haran**, Professor of Real Estate and Urban Studies, Built Environment Research Institute, Ulster University |
|       | Residential and Commercial Property 5C - A new era for workplaces – how COVID-19 has changing the future of office spaces | • Exploring workplace requirements to avoid the spread of viruses in future  
• Key issues to consider when bringing buildings back into operation  
• Understanding the impact of homeworking on the property market  
• Creating a business continuity plan to avoid future disruption |
|       | Rural, Environment and Land 5D - The business of woodland creation – opportunities for property professionals | • Insights into UK policies on woodland creation and planting targets of 30,000ha pa by 2025  
• Understanding availability of land and the real costs of projects  
• Benefiting from business opportunities focusing on carbon, material substitution and biodiversity offsetting  
• Property-based case studies and how they support UK woodland creation targets  
**John Lockhart**, Chairman, Lockhart Garratt |
| 16:25 | Conference break                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 16:35 | Building Surveying and Valuation 6A - Valuing flexible workplaces effectively after Covid-19 | • Differences in valuation of flexible versus traditional office space  
• What is the future of office building ownership and operational structures  
• Challenges and considerations for valuers – will the new workplace requirements affect flexible workspace value?  
• What is the future of tenancy mix co-working and headquarters letting? |
|       | Planning and Construction 6B - Assessing the consequences of COVID-19 for Construction contracts | • How has the pandemic rewritten the legal landscape for construction contracts?  
• Changes on standard forms of contract including JCT and NEC  
• Addressing the changes to contracts for your existing and future construction projects  
**Claire McCarry BSc Hons, MRICS, DipAdj**, Senior Associate, Quigg Golden |
|       | Residential and Commercial Property 6C - The ever-evolving cityscape and the future of city living | • Will rural be the new lifestyle choice post pandemic?  
• Will falls in house rent and sales prices make city living more desirable?  
• How residential and commercial interior and outdoor space is designed following the impact of COVID-19  
**Mairead Carroll**, Associate Director Residential Standards, RICS |
|       | Rural, Environment and Land 6D - Remodelling cities to increase environmental sustainability and meet resident needs | • Reducing traffic pollution while planning for greener and healthier city spaces  
• Meeting resident needs by ensuring fast access to transport and services  
• Effectively driving community planning projects to enhance the quality of living |
| 17:15 | Chair closing remarks and end of virtual conference                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |