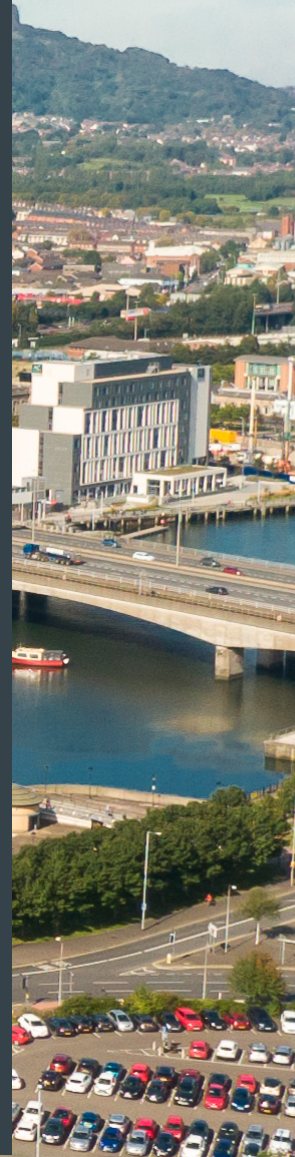


CONFERENCE



# Northern Ireland Conference

The evolving landscape - Conquering challenges together  
La Mon Hotel & Country Club, Belfast





### Type of event

Face to face



### CPD Hours

5.5  
Formal

# Book your place today

[Click here](#)

The Northern Ireland Conference returns to Belfast for 2024. This is your opportunity to hear from leading national experts offering you the knowledge you need to stay on track with the latest trends and legislation, opportunities and challenges faced by the profession.

The property and the built environment sectors continue to struggle with geopolitical and economic issues whilst the quest for sustainability and innovation continues to push the industry forward. Our expert speakers will examine the economic outlook and forecast for Northern Ireland and the implications for the industry. Learn about the latest findings from the RICS Global Sustainability Report and how the industry must respond in order to best mitigate the impact of climate change. We will also be giving essential updates on the Offshore Renewable Energy Action Plan 2030, EnergyCloud Initiative, stranded assets and the impact of Artificial Intelligence on Quantity Surveying. Hear experts share their knowledge around the ongoing supply chain challenges. What does effective supply chain management and risk mitigation look like? How are we to manage material shortages and cost fluctuations?

Join us for an unmissable event covering a range of breakout sessions to tailor to your specific interests. This is your opportunity to connect with other industry experts from across Northern Ireland.



## Time zone:

BST

8:30

**Registration and refreshments**

9:30

**Welcome and Chair's opening remarks**

Martin Doherty MRICS, Northern Ireland Regional Chair – RICS

9:40

**Keynote address: Charting Northern Ireland's future. Where are we heading?**

10:00

**Economic Outlook: Impacts on Property and the Built Environment**

10:50

**RICS Global Sustainability Report 2023**

Sustainability has come to be a critical aspect in the Construction and Real Estate industries. But uncertainty arises among many players as to how to navigate the pathway to achieve net zero emission targets. What are the key findings of the Sustainability Report? What must we action collectively to achieve these targets? What are the challenges to collective achievement of net zero emissions by 2050?

11:40

**Networking & refreshment break**



## Time zone:

BST

12:10

### Break-out Sessions

Delegates select which session to attend from the Property or Built Environment options. For example, at 1210hrs please select 1A or 1B

12:10

#### 1A

##### Offshore Renewable Energy Action Plan 2030

The Department for the Economy's (DfE) draft OREAP aims to accelerate the deployment of offshore renewable energy technologies, a crucial move for the transition to a sustainable energy future. Its objective is to exploit the potential of offshore renewable energy, reduce carbon emissions, and combat climate change. What does this mean for Northern Ireland's property market? What would the potential impacts look like?

12:10

#### 1B

##### Transition to a greener state: Northern Ireland's Circular Economy

In our current economy, the process of extracting raw materials for use in construction is linear. We produce materials and eventually discard them as waste. The construction sector uses more raw materials than any other industry in the UK and produces the most waste. To help curtail wastage and ensure buildings and infrastructure are fit for a net zero carbon future, the DfE launched a public consultation on the draft Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland in January 2023. What is the DfE's vision? What opportunities would a Circular Economy create for the construction sector?



## Time zone:

BST

13:00

**Lunch**

14:00

### **Break-out sessions**

**Delegates select which session to attend from the Property or Built Environment options. For example, at 1400hrs please select 2A or 2B**

14:00

**2A**

#### **EnergyCloud Initiative – An innovative technology solution**

EnergyCloud Ireland, in collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS) launched the EnergyCloud Initiative to reduce energy waste by redistributing surplus energy from wind and solar renewable generators to homes, principally to those in fuel poverty. In March 2023 the collaboration provided free hot water to Irish homes using surplus renewable energy via smart device installations. This incentive is a good example of an innovative technology solution. With increased redistribution of surplus energy to homes, what is the effect for property developers?

Speaker: Stuart Hobbs, Director - SSE Airtricity Energy Services

14:00

**2B**

#### **Supply chain challenges**

The construction supply chain continues to contend with skilled labour shortages, an ageing population and geopolitical disruptions, leading to material scarcities, increased costs, and reduced capacity to meet infrastructure needs. This session looks to dissect the complexities of the supply chain dilemma. How are leading businesses managing material shortages and cost fluctuations? What does effective supply chain management and risk mitigation look like?

Speaker: Dr Hangfei Guo, Lecturer, Information Technology, Analytics, and Operations – Queens University Belfast



## Time zone:

BST

14:50

### Break-out sessions.

Delegates select which session to attend from the Property or Built Environment options. For example, at 1450hrs please select 3A or 3B

14:50

### 3A

#### Stranded assets in Northern Ireland – Are they viable for conversion?

A significant number of buildings in Northern Ireland require large capital expenditure to meet ESG standards, thus resulting in potential early obsolescence. Works have been carried out for a number of buildings to be converted to residential property, hotels and student accommodation. How viable is it to carry out works to justify the uplift in rental and capital expenditure? How can property developers mitigate the potential risks?

14:50

### 3B

#### The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Quantity Surveying

AI has the ability to work smarter than humans, at capabilities that outsmart us. Over the years, the built environment has increasingly embraced the technology, which offers insight and analysis to optimise and predict. However, the lingering fear that AI can ultimately override tasks such as PPM surveys, still remains. How does this innovative, disruptive, technology shape the future of quantity surveying and how will it redefine the role of professionals across the construction landscape?

15:40

### Networking & refreshment break



## Time zone:

BST

16:10

### Break-out sessions

Delegates select which session to attend from the Property or Built Environment options. For example, at 1610hrs please select 4A or 4B

16:10

#### 4A

### Remote working – A new era for commercial property

At the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, less than 4% in Northern Ireland worked from home. Four years on, the traditional office model is now seeing a new era of remote working. The largely absent workforce, coupled with an absence of job growth in the industry, has had knock-on implications for commercial property. Organisations are seeking less, but better-quality office space. What will the commercial property market look like in the coming years? As demand for office space continues to decline, what further adjustments have come about in the market?

Speaker: Stephen Purcell FRICS, Director and Co-Head , Future Analytics - KPMG

16:10

#### 4B

### RICS Whole Life Carbon Assessment 2nd Edition

Measuring the environmental impact of our infrastructure has become increasingly crucial. The WLCA Standard was first introduced in 2017, for consistent and accurate carbon measurement in the built environment. Its objective was to guarantee that the data we collect on carbon emissions is consistent, accurate, and comparable across different projects and asset classes. The 2nd Edition WLCA, which comes into effect as of July 2024, builds upon the previous standard, extended to cover all buildings and infrastructure throughout the built environment life cycle. What are the changes to the 2nd Edition, and how will it impact the industry?

# Programme



UK&I  
05 Sep 24

## Time zone:

BST

17:00

Chair's closing remarks

17:10

End of conference