

## Speaker Biographies – Northern Ireland conference 9 September 2021

**Becky Annison** started her career as a senior solicitor at a large multinational construction company for many years specialising in commercial contract work. Since then, she has become the Director of Engagement at The Chancery Lane Project (a climate change non-profit) and is one of the hosts on Thomson Reuter's Legal Podcast: The Hearing.

**Anurag Deb:** Having read law at Queen's University Belfast in 2014, Anurag went on to obtain a Master's degree in human rights law in 2015, also at Queen's. After completing further studies in London, Anurag was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 2019. In September 2020, Anurag returned to Queen's to begin part-time PhD studies in constitutional law, having been awarded a highly competitive and prestigious scholarship from the Northern Bridge Consortium of the Arts and Humanities Research Council in May 2020.

Anurag engages in a broad civil and public law practice, having acted and continuing to act in cases involving the proper powers of the police and coroners, complex medical matters including the provision of medicinal cannabis, local authority environmental duties, high-profile defamation actions and complex Legacy claims arising out of the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

Anurag is part of a team of legal practitioners and academics involved in drafting the Climate Change (No. 1) Bill (Northern Ireland) 2021, which is currently progressing through the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Anurag has also contributed widely to legal academia, mainly on issues of public law. He is a frequent contributor to the UK Constitutional Law Association and Admin Law blogs and has been published in the *Edinburgh Law Review* and *Public Law*.

**Conor Fegan** is a barrister specialising in planning, environmental and other associated areas of public law. He was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 2018 and practises from Francis Taylor Building, a leading planning and environmental set based in London. Conor has appeared before a range of tribunals, including the Planning Appeals Commission, the Planning Inspectorate and the High Court (England and Wales). He has a broad client base which is spread across England and Wales and Northern Ireland. He frequently acts for developers, charities and interest groups, local resident groups and central and local government.

**Keith Finegan** has worked in conservation and environmental protection for over 20 years, primarily focussed on the protection of Northern Ireland's suite of designated sites through the assessment of plans and projects and in providing environmental advice to competent authorities, public bodies and the general public. More recently Keith has focused on air pollution, heading up the NIEA's Air Pollution and Biodiversity Unit. He represents NIEA on a number UK air pollution groups including the Air Quality Technical advisory group and the Inter Agency Air Pollution Group.

**Viviane Gravey** is a Lecturer in European Politics at the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics at Queen's University Belfast, where she co-chairs the Brexit & Environment network,

investigating the impact of Brexit on the UK and EU environment. She holds a PhD from the University of East Anglia. Her research focuses on the ambition and governance of environmental and agricultural policies in the UK and at EU level.

**Katharine Paulson** joined Practical Law, now Thomson Reuters in 2011 and is Lead, Practical Law Agriculture and Rural Land. She previously she worked at a city law firm for nine years specialising in estate, residential and agricultural law. Katharine is a Fellow of the Agricultural Law Association.

**Jenni Ramos** is the Head of Content Development at The Chancery Lane Project. Having qualified at Allen & Overy in London, Jenni practised corporate and commercial law in Cambridge before a career break and a variety of non-practising positions, including negotiating University medical research contracts and heading up the compliance function of an international disability NGO. Jenni was The Chancery Lane Project's first project associate and just over a year later has now been joined by thirteen other staff members, enabling Jenni to focus on the development and review of the project's portfolio of climate clauses.

**Dame Glenys Stacey** is a solicitor and civil servant serving as chair of the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) from February 2021. She was Chief Executive and Chief Regulator of Ofqual, acting in the post from August to December 2020, and previously from 2012 to 2016.

Dame Glenys Stacey returned as Ofqual's chief regulator in an interim capacity on 26 August 2020.

Dame Glenys Stacey also served as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Probation and led HM Inspectorate of Probation for England and Wales from 2016 and 2019.

She has worked in the public sector at senior management level since 2000. Previously she has worked as chief executive of Ofqual, of Standards for England, at Animal Health (now part of the Animal and Plant Health Agency), at the Greater Manchester Magistrates' Courts Committee (now part of HM Courts and Tribunals Service, and at the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

She was appointed Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire Dame (DBE) in the 2016 New Year Honours for services to education.

**Trevor Rue** was born in Dublin in 1951. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Economics from Trinity College, Dublin and a Diploma in Town and Country Planning from Queen's University, Belfast. He has been a Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute since 1977.

Between 1975 and 1997 Mr Rue worked in the Divisional Planning Offices at Belfast, Londonderry, Coleraine and Downpatrick and at Planning Service Headquarters. He has extensive experience in development control, plan making and policy formulation. He drafted the Department's evidence to a Parliamentary Select Committee inquiry into the planning system in Northern Ireland and the Government's response to the Committee's report.

Mr Rue joined the Planning Appeals Commission in 1997. He dealt with the full range of planning appeals and presided over public inquiries into major retail developments and a city-centre regeneration scheme. He led the team which conducted the public inquiry into the draft Ards and

Down Area Plan. More recently, he ran an inquiry into the A5 road scheme in the Western Transport Corridor.

In 2012, Mr Rue was appointed Deputy Chief Commissioner of the Planning Appeals Commission and the Water Appeals Commission. He authored or updated most of the Commissions' procedural guides and was involved in discussions and correspondence about potential new Commission functions. Prior to his retirement in 2020, he was a frequent speaker at training events, explaining aspects of the work of the Commissions to public bodies, planning consultants and others.