

# Damp and Mould in the Home – a Public Health Issue

## Panel Biographies



### **Julie Billett (CHAIR)**

Julie Billett is Deputy Regional Director of Public Health for London, in the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID). OHID is part of the Department for Health and Social Care, focused on improving population health and reducing health inequalities. In this role, Julie leads across a range of areas and functions for OHID London, including health improvement, systems collaboration, and coordination for health. Julie is a public health consultant by background and has worked in a variety of roles across the public health system throughout her career, including as a Director of Public Health in local government, in the NHS and academia.



### **Professor Sani Dimitroulopoulou**

Sani is a Principal Environmental Public Health Scientist on Indoor Environments at UK Health Security Agency (formerly PHE), leading the work on indoor air quality (IAQ) within the Air Quality and Public Health. She is also a Visiting Professor at the UCL IEDE, Bartlett School. She works closely with colleagues from Government Departments (e.g. DHSC, DfE, DLUCH, Defra, HSE) and Organisations (e.g. WHO, NICE, CIBSE, RCP/RCPCH) to provide expert advice on indoor air quality and health.

Sani participated in the Cross Whitehall Group for the revision of the Building Regulations, Part F and in the Advisory Board organised by DLUCH for the revision of HHSRS (Housing Health and Safety Rating System). She contributed to the Defra's AQEG report on IAQ (2022) and the CMO's report on air pollution (2022). She was the project manager for the UKHSA contribution to the development of the DHSC/UKHSA/DLUHC guidance on "*Damp and mould: understanding and addressing the health risks for rented housing providers*".



### **Gladys Xavier**

Gladys is the as the Director of Public Health. She is responsible for public health and social care commissioning and the provision of a wide range of services to improve and protect the health and wellbeing of the residents. Prior to this she worked as the Deputy Director of Public Health in the NHS.

Galdys began her career in the NHS as a registered nurse and went on to work in different specialities including Haematology, Gynaecology and Coronary Care. She was appointed as the first nurse consultant in public health for London and worked for the Health Protection Agency. She is registered as a Generalist Specialist in the UK Public Health Register (UKPHR) and is an appraiser for public health doctors for the Faculty of Public Health



### **Josephine Ozols-Riding**

Josie Ozols-Riding is the Housing and Health Programme Manager in the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).

Her primary role is to influence national policy on housing quality with the purpose of improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities. This includes work on a wide range of housing hazards, such as fuel poverty, damp and mould, overheating, and overcrowding. Other components of her role include building the evidence base on housing and health, supporting the delivery of interventions to improve housing conditions, and ensuring that any changes to policy and legislation adequately consider the needs of health vulnerable groups. Josie led the development of the national guidance on damp and mould: "*Damp and mould: understanding and addressing the health risks for rented housing providers*" working closely with UKHSA and DLUHC.

Prior to joining DHSC, Josie has worked in a number of roles connecting public health and housing functions. This includes roles within the NHS and local authority housing delivery, housing strategy and planning teams.



### **Thul Khan**

Thul is a housing solicitor at UCL Integrated Legal Advice Clinic (iLAC) based in Stratford, London. As well as managing a busy client caseload Thul supervises UCL Law students at the Clinic and supports the homelessness case study for Laws Connections. Thul has worked for the Citizen's Advice Bureaux, Shelter and in private practice.

Thul's has represented tenants at the solicitor duty desk scheme at the Clerkenwell & Shoreditch County Court and volunteered at a local law centre. Thul's casework includes taking instructions on all types of housing cases, including housing disrepair cases. Thul regularly brings court proceedings in disrepair cases and has been successful in settling such claims and obtaining significant damages for clients.



### **Luke Spanton**

Luke is the head of the Cross-Tenure Standards Team at the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Luke has spent his career in housing, leading proactive, multi-disciplinary enforcement teams in local councils before moving over to work in housing policy in Whitehall.

Luke's team led on the introduction of the Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation) Act 2018, the Electrical Safety Standards in the Private Rented Sector (England) Regulations and the review of the Housing Health and Safety Rating System. He is now leading work on a standalone damp and mould standard that all landlords must meet.

