



Dear Applicant

Thank you for the interest you have shown in the position of Chair of BSHF. We have put this pack together to give you a flavour of who we are, where we are going and how this role contributes to achieving our mission and delivering our strategy.

Established in 1976, BSHF is based in Coalville in Leicestershire, where it has strong historical ties.

BSHF is an independent organisation focussed on helping people around the world access decent housing. It researches and promotes innovative housing policy and practice, and supports the exchange and transfer of good practice. We do this through three related areas of activity:

**We identify great housing ideas**

Through our research work, the World Habitat Awards competition and our wider networks we are in a great position to spot innovative housing ideas and discover the best housing projects from around the world that deliver positive change for people. In 1985 we established The World Habitat Awards as part of our contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. We have run the competition ever since in partnership with UN-Habitat.

Two awards are given annually to projects that provide practical and innovative solutions to current housing challenges throughout the world. Entries are assessed by a panel of international judges. A cash award of £10,000 and a trophy are presented to each of the winners of the award.

**We transfer ideas and practices to places where they are needed most**

We work to help bring the benefits of these ideas to the people who need them most. To do this we promote and publicise the best and most innovative housing projects we find and build networks of people best able to implement those ideas and practice.

Every year we run two peer exchanges bringing together people around the world to learn from the best housing practices. The most recent peer exchanges have been to visit housing projects of international importance in Palestine, The United States and Finland.

**We help new ideas grow, so they benefit the people who need them**

Where it is necessary, we go further. We help facilitate and implement the best ideas into new contexts. These programmes involve in-depth work and require significant extra resources so we will undertake no more than three at any one time. Currently we are running two such programmes:

- A UK-based programme that aims to empower communities by scaling up Community Led Housing.
- A programme aimed at ending chronic street homelessness (or rough sleeping) in European cities. We are helping establish new approaches and practices in six European Cities. If this is successful we aim to scale up the programme to a larger group of cities.

Since 2006 BSHF has held Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, reflecting our work in support of the goals of UN-Habitat.

It has been my privilege to play a key role in the running of the Foundation but I am now stepping down as Chair. My tenure has been both challenging and rewarding and over that time we have approved a new Strategy 2015-2018.

Our achievements are in no small way down to the dedicated and talented people that I have had the pleasure to work alongside over the years: Council of Management members, our Director and staff team, and all those who collaborate with us.

I know that my successor will enjoy the same level of support that I have been given while leading BSHF on the next steps of its exciting journey.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "J. Strange". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Strange  
Chair, BSHF

Dear Applicant

**BSHF – Chair of the Council of Management – How to make an application**

Thank you for your interest in this role. BSHF is a unique organisation; small, yet genuinely global, and proudly independent. The challenges of inadequate housing are vast, but our strategy of finding the best housing practice and helping it grow where it is needed most makes a difference. It may seem unlikely that a relatively small organisation in Leicestershire can improve people’s housing on a global scale. But I believe we can. Some of our programmes are well established and others are new, but all have the potential to be improved and developed to achieve that goal.

The Chair is vital to the future of BSHF. We need someone who is as excited and committed to our future as I am. The potential of BSHF is as exciting as our imaginations allow it to be.

Enclosed is the information you will require to assist you in completing your application.

To apply please can you:

- Provide an up-to-date CV which shows your full career history with any breaks explained – we recommend that this is no longer than three pages;
- Write a supporting statement detailing why you are a good candidate for this post and how you fulfil the person specification – we recommend that this should be a maximum of three pages;
- Complete the declaration form; and
- Indicate on the declaration form if you cannot attend the interview dates.

Please note that applications can only be considered if all the documentation is completed.

However, it is not mandatory to complete the equalities section within the declaration form. The information requested is for monitoring purposes in line with our commitment to equality and diversity, and will not affect the outcome of your application.

Once complete, please send your application, preferably in MS Word format, by email to: [chairrecruitment@bshf.org](mailto:chairrecruitment@bshf.org)

By post to:

David Ireland  
Building and Social Housing Foundation  
Memorial Square  
Coalville  
Leicestershire  
LE67 3TU

Due to postal unreliability we recommend you e-mail your application to us wherever possible to avoid missing the deadline.

Applications must be received by **Monday 18 July 2016 at 12 noon**.

If you do not receive confirmation of receipt of your application by Friday 22 July please call 01530 510444 to ensure it has arrived. You should also ensure that you use a secure email address from which to send your application, as our system will filter out e-mails if it believes them to have been sent from unsecured sites that may have been used to send spam e-mails. In order to avoid last-minute IT issues, we also ask that you allow yourself ample time to submit your application in advance of the deadline.

Details of the selection process can be found on page 6 of the Chair Recruitment Pack.

Please do contact me if you would like an informal discussion about the role or if you have any questions on 01530 510444 or 07715 008275.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Ireland". The signature is written in a light grey or blue ink.

David Ireland OBE  
Director, BSHF