

**3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2026**

# **CYBERNI CONFERENCE 2026**

MAIN SPONSOR **ACUMEN  
CYBER**

**LA MON HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB**

# PLENARY AGENDA

08:00 - 9:00

Registration / Networking / Visit Exhibition Stands



09:00 - 9:15

Welcome & Opening Address

**Neil Gibson**

Permanent Secretary  
Department of Finance



09:15 - 10:00

NCSC Keynote Speech

**NCSC**

Senior Representative



10:00 - 10:30

Main Sponsor, Acumen Cyber - Why the SOC Must Evolve

**Peter King**

Head of Security Operations  
at Acumen Cyber

10:30 - 11:00

Refreshments / Networking / Visit Exhibition Stands



11:00 - 11:45

Thugs & Thieves – Different Types of Cyber Threats

**Ciaran Martin**

Professor  
University of Oxford



11:45 - 12:30

Neurodiversity and Cybersecurity: Why we need the out of the box thinkers in our team

**Holly Foxcroft**

Cyber Security Business Partner/BISO for OneAdvanced  
and leading voice in cybersecurity and neurodiversity

# PLENARY AGENDA

12:30 - 13:30

Lunch / Networking / Visit Exhibition Stands

13:30 - 14:30

Inside The Blackmail Factory

**Geoff White**

Author / Investigative Journalist



14:30 - 15:00

Cyber Incident: An inside look at a real world cyber attack from an affected organisation

15:00 - 15:30

Refreshments / Networking / Visit Exhibition Stands

15:30 - 16:00

Cyber Horizons: Insight into future directions in cyber security research and applications'

**Judith Millar**

Director of Operations,  
Centre for Secure Information Technologies (CSIT),  
Queens University Belfast



16:00 - 16:20

TechFirst: Building the tech skills pipeline across the UK

**Senior Representative**

Department for Science, Innovation  
& Technology (DSIT)



Department for  
Science, Innovation  
& Technology

16:20 - 16:40

Cyber Security and Resilience  
(Network and Information Systems) Bill

**Senior Representative**

Department for Science, Innovation  
& Technology (DSIT)



Department for  
Science, Innovation  
& Technology

16:40 - 16:45

Conference Closure

# TECHNICAL SIDE SESSIONS AGENDA

\*Agenda Subject to change

in partnership with **NI CYBER**

## Technical Side Session 1

10:00-10:30



### The Evolving AI-Induced Cyber Threat Landscape: How to Reduce the Blast Zone

Cyber Guarded

AI is revolutionising cyber threats by enabling faster, stealthier, and more adaptive attacks making breach containment and blast zone reduction critical for modern cybersecurity strategies.

**Speakers:** Paul Toye, Managing Director, Cyber Guarded & Jonathan Meehan, Technical Director, Cyber Guarded

## Technical Side Session 2

11.45-12:30



### NCSC Masterclass - Modern identity attacks need modern defences

NCSC

The last few years has seen large shifts in attacker tradecraft, from primarily targeting user endpoints to targeting internet-connected network appliances and identity. Modern identity is highly complex, and in many cases attackers are more adept at navigating it than are defenders. This talk will cover the changes in tradecraft, how modern identity attacks work, and technical assessment of the defences that can thwart them

**Speaker:** Senior NCSC Representative

## Technical Side Session 3

14:30-15:00



### Cyber-AI Hub

CSIT/Queens University Belfast

The Cyber-AI Hub led by the Centre for Secure Information Technologies (CSIT), Queen's University Belfast, is a pioneering initiative that brings together academia and industry to drive innovation at the intersection of artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. This session will explore some of the technical projects and outcomes in the use of AI to improve to cyber security and the cyber security of AI models

**Speaker:** Dr Ihzen Alouani, Senior Lecturer, CSIT, Queen's University Belfast

## Technical Side Session 4

15:30-16:00



### Identity: The New Security Perimeter - Why It Matters Now

Madigan Solutions

The traditional network perimeter has vanished. In today's cloud-first, hybrid, and AI-driven world, identity has become the new security perimeter, and it's having its moment of recognition. This session explores why identity is now the foundation of modern security and what organisations must do to adapt.

**Speaker:** Tom Macartney, IT Security Consultant, Madigan Solutions