

3RD MARCH 2026

CYBERNI CONFERENCE 2026

MAIN SPONSOR  ACUMEN
CYBER

LA MON HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB

PLENARY AGENDA

08:00 - 09:15

Registration / Networking / Visit Exhibition Stands

09:15 - 09:30

Welcome

Donna Traynor, Chair



09:30 - 09:45

Opening Address

Neil Gibson

Permanent Secretary
Department of Finance



09:45 - 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 Ihsen 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