

PRESS INFORMATION
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Quest urges new Government to replace HIPs with tried and tested Home Reports

Quest, the major infrastructure supplier for Valuation, Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) and Home Report technologies in the UK property market, is today urging the new Conservative-led coalition government to consider adopting a version of the Scottish Home Report in England and Wales, since it was yesterday confirmed in the coalition deal that Home Information Packs (HIPs) will be scrapped.

Home Reports are currently used in Scotland and include a single survey, which is carried out by a RICS chartered surveyor and provides details on the condition and value of the property, an EPC and a property questionnaire. The Scottish system has been in place for over a year and has been very well received by the industry by providing consumers with better information at the right time, whilst not impacting the speed in which properties can be marketed.

According to Quest, any new solution should also include flood risk data in response to recommendations in DEFRA's Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and Sir Michael Pitt's flood review. Making homebuyers more aware of a property's flood risk will assist them in making better informed purchases.

Providing better information at the right time means legal searches should be excluded and returned to the end of the process for legal professionals to manage, once a buyer is in a financial position to proceed with their purchase. Due to delays in obtaining Local Authority searches HIPs are often not available within 28 days; the new proposed solution would reduce turnaround to four days.

Certification Schemes BRE, SAVA & RICS were established to manage Home Inspectors on behalf of CLG for the implementation of Home Condition Reports. There are currently circa 1000+ Qualified or Accredited inspectors which, when combined with the already qualified RICS surveyors, can deliver the entire proposed solution. This would therefore mean only one surveyor is then required to visit the property to conduct the EPC and Condition Survey in a single inspection rather than two.

James Sherwood-Rogers, Managing Director, Quest said: "There would be real advantages of incorporating the contents of the Home Report in this new solution for England and Wales to deliver true transparency to consumers. It is also important to point out that there would be little

cost difference for consumers, as the introduction of a condition survey would be in place of the legal searches. By adopting this tried and tested solution, we believe the new Government can quickly implement a solution that results in minimal disruption to the home buying and selling process, whilst maximising benefits for the consumer.”

For further information, please telephone 0844 844 9969 or visit www.questuk.com.

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Notes to Editors:

High resolution images of James Sherwood-Rogers are available on request.

About Quest

Established in 1982, Quest, which is part of Landmark Information Group, is the market leading provider of survey and mortgage valuation software in the UK. Quest has also developed Q-Guard, a fraud detection and prevention tool that supports the industry in detecting and preventing mortgage fraud.

In addition, Quest also specialises in delivering software applications that allow users to access, develop, collate and share the contents of Home Reports, the Energy Performance Certificate, Home Condition Report and Commercial Energy Reports in a secure electronic environment.

Its technology is integrated with a majority of the DEA accreditation schemes and Scottish Protocols, including RICS and BRE, providing access to the largest resource of assessors for an efficient turnaround.

For further information, telephone: 0844 844 9969, visit: www.questuk.com or follow Quest on Twitter at www.twitter.com/questuk.

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