

**For immediate release**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2006

## **HCRS MUST BE MADE COMPULSORY AFTER DRY RUN PROVES THEY WORK**

The Government's dramatic and unwarranted U-turn on HIPs does not mean that Home Condition Reports (HCRs) will automatically be compiled on a voluntary basis.

The Association of Home Information Pack Providers (AHIPP) urges the Government to re-think its woolly assertion that they will promote the take up of the HCR "on a market-led basis". Does this mean it expects the industry to carry on taking the risk in implementing HIPs and HCRs at a time when the Government has knocked confidence?

The only way that HCRs will survive is if the department concerned – the DCLG – makes it apparent that they will be mandatory after the dry run has proved their worth.

Who is to pay for this dry run, and who is officially responsible? It is stretching credibility to the limit to now expect industry to fully fund such a roll out. The Minister yesterday indicated that "mandatory introduction of HCRs remains on the table" and said it would review with key stakeholders what support is needed to ensure sufficient numbers of Home Inspectors are in place.

The Government will look at "pump-priming and other incentives" to ensure an effective dry run takes place. AHIPP will be advising Government of the

funding that industry will require for a meaningful take up of HCRs to take place.

Mike Ockenden, Director General of AHIPP, said: "There will be a need for Home Inspectors to carry out the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) but Ms Cooper is in danger of scaring many of them away from their training if she does not immediately reiterate the need to make the HCR mandatory after further testing.

"We accept that the dry run needs to be transparent and indeed will be conducting our own independent roll out of HIPs later this year. If Government provides the support industry needs, the HCR will be an integral part of our roll out. We are convinced of the worth of HCRs to consumers so the Government must be utterly unequivocal on this point and undertake to make HCRs mandatory when this has been proven."

**- Ends -**

**For further information please contact:**

Neil Mackwood / Claire Hendry, The Wriglesworth Consultancy  
020 7845 7900 / [n.mackwood@wriglesworth.com](mailto:n.mackwood@wriglesworth.com) /  
[c.hendry@wriglesworth.com](mailto:c.hendry@wriglesworth.com)

For all HIPs related enquires contact:

**Mike Ockenden, Director General, AHIPP** on 0777 555 0155

**Paul Broadhead, Deputy Director General, AHIPP** on 0797 994 2187

**Notes to Editors:**

The Association of Home Information Pack Providers (AHIPP) is a trade body representing a wide constituency of members in conveyancing, estate agency, search providers and HIP Providers. AHIPP is a member of the ODPM

Central Stakeholder's Committee who are charged with the implementation of the HIP programme which is due to become mandatory in June 2007. The Association has over 40 members. See [www.hipassociation.co.uk](http://www.hipassociation.co.uk) for more information.