

For Immediate Release

Dorking, Surrey – 26th January 2007 - The Partnership Ltd, the leading Home Information Pack provider for the prestige property market, has welcomed the government announcement concerning the changes in the regulations that govern the introduction of HIPs later this year.

The government had always been concerned about any potential impact of HIPs on the property market. Under the current regulations, estate agents could not market a property until all the documents in a HIP were available. However, feedback from the Area Trials highlighted some of the delays this may cause and the government has taken decisive action by announcing an amendment to the process.

From June 1st, agents will now be able to put a property on the market after obtaining the title information, producing an Energy Performance Certificate, completing a sales statement and the index. They will then be given 28 days with which to complete the production of the HIP, which will include obtaining the local authority and drainage searches and other documents if required. This will be reviewed in December 2007.

Peter Ambrose, director of **The Partnership** expects that estate agents will be pleased by this announcement. *“During our discussions with agents, we regularly found that one of their main concerns was the potential impact of having to wait for all the documents to be available before the property was marketed. With our legal experience, we were always concerned about the time that local authority and drainage searches would take to be returned. We recognised this would mean that agents would be marketing with incomplete HIPs and would have to wait for the 14 day period to expire, creating a somewhat artificial situation which was difficult to justify.*

We are extremely encouraged to see that the government has listened to the concerns of industry and feedback from their Area Trials and introduced this measure. The trials were always designed to test the processes and this change shows they are working as planned.”

Notes to Editors

The Partnership (2005) Ltd is a privately held specialist provider of Home Information Packs working with high-end estate agents, surveyors and solicitors focussing on the high-end property market. For information go to www.thepartnershiplimited.com

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