



The Law Society

Yvette Cooper
Minister for Housing and Planning
Department for Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

10 May 2007

Dear Minister,

When I met you in February, I reiterated the Law Society's long standing concern that the introduction of HIPs would not achieve the benefits in the home selling market that the government claims. Our concerns were echoed last week by the House of Lords Select Committee report on the regulations which supported what the Law Society and other key stakeholders have been saying over the past 18 months.

As you know, whilst the Law Society has never been in favour of the introduction of HIPs, we have always fully supported the government's aim of improving the home buying and selling process. Many of the improvements introduced in recent years have been as a result of work undertaken by the Law Society. As a key player in this market, we believe that we have a significant role to play in bringing about further change to benefit the consumer.

The introduction of e-conveyancing, in which the Law Society is also playing a leading role, will take some time and require a great deal of work. However there are a number of other initiatives which could provide more immediate improvements to the home selling process, without any of the risks inherent in the compulsory introduction of HIPs.

I am writing to you, therefore, to reiterate the offer I made when we met in February to work with the government and other key stakeholders to reform the home selling process. I would be delighted to meet with you informally to outline my alternative proposals before the market turns against the government on 1 June.

Yours sincerely

Paul Marsh
Deputy vice president