

PSSB

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PSSB launches new qualifications in surveying

The **Property Surveyors Standards Board (PSSB)**, the Standards Board set up by BRE, NES and RPSA to deal exclusively with surveyors who specialise in residential property, has announced that it is launching two new qualifications at the **Residential Property Surveyors Association (RPSA)** annual conference on 15th April 2014. The **Diploma in Residential Surveying (DipRSurv)** and the **Diploma in Residential Surveying and Valuation (DipRSVal)** will set a new benchmark for specialist residential surveyors whether they are members of the RPSA or other professional organisations such as the RICS.

The primary aim of the new qualifications is to bring consistency and clarity to home buying consumers, only 20% of whom currently choose to commission a condition-based survey when making what is probably the biggest purchase of their lives.

As the housing market comes back to more normal levels there is a growing shortage of qualified surveyors to meet the demand for surveys and valuations, and the new qualifications have been warmly welcomed by professionals from all sides of the industry.

The awarding body for the qualifications is ABBE (the Awarding Body for the Built Environment). The qualifications were developed by SAVA (Surveyors and Valuers Accreditation) which was specifically created to quality assure the standards of residential surveying with the support of RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors). SAVA is now owned by NES (National Energy Services) which is part of the Kingfisher Group. SAVA and the Building Research Establishment (BRE) will be the only training centres and certification schemes for the new qualifications.

Austin Baggett the Chief Executive of NES said "Improving the quality of UK homes starts with a professional survey. These two new qualifications form an essential part of the framework that will deliver better quality information to the million or so people who buy a home each year in the UK. We've also been working closely with RICS to make sure that the qualifications provide an entry point into the surveying industry and allow an individual to take up Assoc RICS status."

Peter Bolton King, Global Residential Director at RICS welcomed the new qualifications. "The DipRSurv and DipRVal provide a new and sensible route into residential surveying and valuation for new entrants that wish to concentrate their careers in these fields. The increasing demand for surveys and valuations is stretching the available resource of qualified professionals and the new qualifications are extremely timely. We look forward to welcoming many of the people that achieve these new qualifications into the RICS fold."

Sarah Dunkerley, Director of Operations at ABBE said "we are delighted to have been appointed as the awarding body for the new qualifications. We have extensive experience in surveying qualifications having been the awarding body for the Diploma in Home Inspection (DipHI). The DipHI provides a stepping stone for the new qualifications and we hope that many who hold the DipHI, as well as other qualified surveyors, will decide to take up the new qualification."

Andy Butterfield, Director at BRE said "we are delighted to offer a Certification scheme for the new qualifications and to host the RPSA conference at which both the new qualification and certification schemes will be launched. BRE wishes to remain at the forefront of offering new qualifications and certification services to members of its existing schemes as well as new entrants into the surveying profession."

Alan Milstein, Chairman RPSA, said: "For too long, consumers have received a variable and inconsistent service from the surveying community. I am delighted that this new Gold Standard for residential surveying will offer homebuyers products and services that meet the needs of 21st-century consumers. When buying a home, it is essential for people to have clear and concise information delivered quickly and efficiently. The essence of these new qualifications is about meeting client expectations and delivering value for money"

He added "we are excited that the diplomas will be launched at our annual conference in Watford and that candidates will be to sign up for training courses on the day. We expect strong demand from both the existing

surveying community and those looking for a new career opportunity, and anticipate that this will quickly become the new benchmark within the industry."

Anyone who has an interest in the new qualifications is invited to contact RPSA at info@rpsa.org.uk

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Notes to Editors

Property Surveying Standards Board

The PSSB is a new standards board to regulate and develop the surveying profession. It is aimed at overseeing both current and new surveying products and qualifications, the Property Surveyors Standards Board (PSSB) is the result of a joint venture by three industry bodies – SAVA, BRE & RPSA.

Residential Property Surveyors Association (RPSA)

RPSA is a representative body for surveyors who hold the Dip HI qualification and who are accredited by the internationally recognised Building Research Establishment (BRE) and Surveyor And Valuer Accreditation (SAVA), which is part of National Energy Services (NES).

RPSA is dedicated to working for its members to deliver a range of surveying products of the highest possible quality to serve the needs of consumers. The Home Condition Survey (HCS) is the first of these products, which is now being distributed nationally through a specially created panel working with homebuyers' conveyancers.

RPSA is a "not for profit" limited company that is directed by a council of members, all of whom are board members of the company. The council members each represent a discrete geographical part of the country and act as a point of contact for the RPSA membership in their region.

www.rpsa.org.uk

Contact

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