



PRESS RELEASE

HIPS GO AHEAD BUT PUBLIC UNCERTAIN

Middlesex, May 2007 – Now that today's attempt in the Commons to derail the Home Information Pack (HIP) has failed, attention must turn to educating the public. A new survey reveals that, although the Pack is only a few days away, people are very unclear about what it should contain.

The poll, conducted by gas-*elec*, the national safety inspection group, revealed that most people realise that the HIP will contain title documents and searches. But when it comes to the rest of the contents, more get it wrong than right.

65% are expecting the HIP to definitely include a Home Condition Report (now only "recommended" by the government); over 52% believe it will contain a structural survey (never required); 61% also think it must include a survey of the state of the electrics, 59% a survey of the gas installations, and 53% a survey of the plumbing – none of which are compulsory for the seller to include as standard.

Respondents are more aware of the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) – 79% know that the HIP must have one. But the confusion continues over what exactly constitutes a bad or good rating; 49% believe a 'C' rating is average (in fact the average property in the UK is in bands D-E), with a further 26% thinking a 'C' rating is bad, and another 24% admitting they don't know.

Finally, do the public agree that the HIP will be good for the housing market? A resounding 62% said no.

"It is clear from our survey that the public has been very confused by the HIP so far," says John Davidson, managing director of the gas-*elec* Group. "We will need to be educated as to its purpose, its content and how it will impact on them when they come to buy and sell their next home."

**The survey was completed by members of the public visiting the company's website www.gas-elec.co.uk from the 4th to 31st of April 2007.*

ENDS/...

Editor's Notes

Founded in 1996, **gas-elec** carries out impartial safety inspections and light remedial works. Its unique inspection service provides the residential lettings market with multiple inspections of the gas and electrics in just one visit. **gas-elec** has over 126 franchisees operating from 18 regional offices, who this year will carry out more than 120,000 safety inspections in domestic properties throughout the UK. For more information visit www.gas-elec.co.uk.

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