

## **SAVA gets ready to accredit UK's first home inspectors**

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SAVA has confirmed that it will open the country's first certification scheme for home inspectors and energy assessors in time for the Home Information Pack (HIP) pilots starting in November.

This means that inspectors will be properly vetted, qualified and insured and will be monitored to make sure they prepare their reports to the required quality standards. It also provides the essential consumer protection needed to ensure public confidence in Home Condition Reports and Energy Performance Certificates.

Brian Scannell, Managing Director of SAVA, says: "Consumers need reassurance that such surveys – including the mandatory Energy Performance Certificates – have been carried out by accredited professionals registered on an official certification scheme, subject to proper quality assurance checks and audits, and backed up with insurance and a meaningful consumer complaints process.

"Our certification scheme will provide just these safeguards. It makes use of the very strong quality assurance skills and infrastructure we already have in place and builds upon SAVA's long reputation for raising standards in residential surveying.

"SAVA's certification scheme also means that home inspectors can at last get their accreditation to practice and will be able to make a go of their new career."

SAVA welcomed Yvette Cooper's announcement yesterday that energy assessors will have to comply with the same high standards as home inspectors, as well as her confirmation that the Government will provide £4 million pump-priming to raise awareness and uptake of HIPs in the pilot areas of Southampton, Newcastle, Northampton, Bath, Huddersfield and Cambridge.

Brian Scannell says: "We have identified 250 of our trainee home inspectors who are geographically located within the HIP pilot areas. Like many of our candidates, they still see a positive market opportunity for home inspectors, driven by Pack providers and progressive estate agents who will be encouraging sellers to commission a full HIP, including a complete Home Condition Report. I am confident that the pilots will prove the true consumer benefits of Home Condition Reports.

"The creation of this new career in home inspection has opened the door for improved standards and has brought much-needed new blood into the residential property industry. For the sake of the industry I'm hugely relieved that it looks like we're not going to lose these new people, their skills and experience.

"We all welcome the Government's reassurances that HIPs are on track and things like the accreditation of home inspectors and the establishment of the central register for Home Condition Reports are all moving forward. This helps to allay fears that there will be further delays."