



### **JCRA Welcomes Estate Agents' Position on Fees**

Following intervention by the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA), the Jersey Estate Agents' Association (JEAA) has sent a letter to its members confirming that its previous practice of recommending fees that members should charge for their services has been abolished. The JEAA has also instructed its members that they should set their own fees for property sales independently of each other.

The JCRA had opened an investigation under the Competition (Jersey) Law 2005 (the Law) when it received information indicating that the JEAA recommended fees that members should charge for property sales.

As the JCRA has made clear in previous cases, recommending or fixing fees that competitors charge for their services is likely to infringe the Law, by reducing price competition to the detriment of consumers.

The JEAA claimed that, whereas this practice had once existed, it had since been abolished in compliance with the Law. However, it was unable to provide the JCRA with evidence that the practice had been abolished. Moreover, the JCRA's enquiries amongst JEAA members revealed that a number of them appeared to be under the impression that the previous recommended charges were still in place. The JCRA therefore recommended that the JEAA write to its members to clarify the position, which it has now done, thereby enabling the JCRA to conclude its investigation.

This is now the seventh sector in which the JCRA has intervened to ensure that Jersey associations' practices of recommending or fixing fees to be charged by members are abolished. The previous cases involved conveyancing, dentistry, plumbing, building, electrical and driving tuition services.

Bill Brown, the JCRA's Executive Director, said:

*"We welcome the JEAA's clarification that the practice of recommending fees for estate agency has been abolished, and that members should set their own fees independently of each other. Consumers are free to shop around for the best price for estate agents' services, and we would encourage them to do so."*

ENDS

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