



## The CLG DEA Workshop.

There has been considerable energy by the **IHI** to bring the CLGs attention to what is happening to **DEAs** at the coalface, so to speak. Over the last six months **IHI** have been calling for all tangible evidence and factual information to be filtered up through Council where your representations have been forcefully made. From difficulties with Certification Schemes, to competency and quality issues about Training Providers, the fee levels for EPCs, the accuracy of some EPCs, and the failure of Trading Standards and the Advertising Standards Authority to take action against unscrupulous traders be they panels, training providers, estate agents, or **DEAs**.

The **IHI** have led the way in getting the CLG to set up a new group that will focus entirely on the difficulties **DEAs** are facing. This group currently called the **DEA** workshop will hopefully work much more like the Building Regulations Advisory Panel, where the group will discuss in detail the problems faced by **DEAs** and explore solutions, on an ongoing basis.

By the end of the summer the Terms of Reference for this group will be published on the **IHI** member's website, together with its first Action Plan. And there are already a number of topics that will interest members, which were discussed more fully at the Council meeting and AGM.

- The **DEA** group will only discuss residential EPC issues.
- Only up to six DEAs will sit on the group nationally. The IHI has two places.
- Asset Skills will also sit on the group, and so there will be direct contact to discuss and resolve Training Provider issues, and CPD.
- Because some Certification Schemes have used CPD as a commercial venture, one task will be to see if Asset Skills can put together a CPD framework.
- There will be a significant re-write of RdSAP software, and this will be launched in September.
- Because of the complaints made about Training Providers, it is hoped that there will be an endorsement scheme of TPs so that candidates and students can identify more clearly those who are providing a quality service.
- There is serious debate about setting a recommended retail price for EPCs. The IHI have lead the argument that the dominance of the panel management system has caused fee collapse, which can only lead to fear that professional standards will fall, ethics will be overlooked and consumer service and standards evaporate. This is simply history repeating itself and partly why the surveying and valuation profession is in such decline.
- There will shortly be a re-launch of marketing material from the CLG aimed for **DEAs** to use, and the **IHI** will follow this up with their own marketing material to assist.

Full details will soon be available on the IHI member's website. It is likely that another group will also be set up in time with a similar brief for the Commercial EPCs. What we have begun to witness with the setting up of the DEA Group is the commitment for the CLG to listen to the IHI.



There was wide debate at the meeting on several interesting subjects, particularly dominated by **EPC issues**, both residential and commercial. There was significant discussion about the Commercial EPC, levels 3, 4, & 5, the competencies required, and who, if anyone, could measure a Frank Gehry building, or a Sterling, or Alsop, etc. (You will be glad to know there is only one Gehry in the UK, but many Sterlings).