



9 October 2008

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT RECOGNISED BY AWARD

Praise for civil servants is not high on many people's agenda but it was last week when the Leasehold Reform Branch at Communities and Local Government (CLG) were presented with the ARMA Award.

Speaking to over 500 property managers at the Association of Residential Managing Agent's (ARMA) annual conference at the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre in London, Brett Williams, ARMA's chairman explained:

"Traditionally the ARMA Award is given each year to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the residential leasehold debate but this year the Award is going to a group of individuals.

"Not long after the 1996 Housing Act, ARMA became deeply involved with the discussions and consultation that all led to the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002; an Act that was introduced in a most complex and lengthy manner owing to the unexpected and unforeseen implications of some of its Sections.

"In the face of these difficulties and the unworkability of the remaining crucial Sections 152 and 156, this group doggedly kept going and listened to us when we pointed out what was needed and workable.

"Two years ago, the delegates at this conference, gave a resounding response to our call to the Leasehold Reform Branch of the Department for Communities and Local Government to amend S152 and S156. Not only did the Leasehold Reform Branch listen but they came up with proposals to balance the desires of the government and the workability of these desires. For having worked hard on taking the sections back to primary legislation for amendment in order to get it right, we decided this year it was time the Leasehold Reform Branch received recognition for their efforts."

Chris Humphreys of the CLG received the award on behalf of himself and his three colleagues in the branch.

About ARMA

Formed in 1991, ARMA is the only body in England and Wales to focus exclusively on matters relating to the block or estate management of long leasehold residential property. With over 200 corporate members managing in excess of 800,000 units in more than 32,000 blocks of flats or estates (at least 60% of which are lessee-controlled properties), the Association's founding principal aims are to represent its members and the interests of lessees, resident management companies and investor freeholders.

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Notes to editor

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