

Wimbledon estate agents, Brinkley's talks about hurdling.

Brinkley's Estate Agents, which has branches in Putney, Wimbledon Hill and Wimbledon Park, sympathises with first-time buyers, who are struggling to get on the 'property ladder.'

According to a recent report from the National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA), "buyers are failing to overcome the significant barriers to home ownership that the current housing market represents."

That said, the latest statistics from the NAEA shows only a slight decrease in potential buyers; on average, 275 people registered per branch in May compared to 277 in the previous month and this is an improvement on the 265 registrations for the same time last year.

At the same time, the Association reports that the average number of sales per branch in May has stayed at eight, which has been the case for the last four months. And of those, the percentage of first-time buyers rose slightly from 21 in April to 24 in May.

President of the NAEA, Wendy Evans-Scott said, "Demand for property remains consistent but the barriers to buying are proving impossible to overcome for the vast majority of consumers".

"There may be many hurdles for people trying to set foot on the first rung," said Robert Brinkley, CEO of Brinkley's Estate Agents, "but many are finding a way to make it work. Meanwhile, the more 'established' property owners" are making the most of the buy-to-let investment opportunities that are available at the moment. While statistics suggest that the market is stagnant, there seems to be a subtle undercurrent just waiting to bubble to the surface, when the economy gets better."

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