



INTERNATIONAL VILLA RENTAL ASSOCIATION

Raising Standards

Right Honourable Margaret Hodge MP

Dept Culture, Media, Sports and Tourism
2 – 4 Cockspur Street
London
SW1Y 5DH

15th January 2009

Dear Ms Hodge,

I am writing to you as 'Head of Tourism' to consider the increasing level of internet fraud in the Holiday Property Rental Industry. As you are probably aware, to date the industry is completely unregulated, unlike the rest of the travel package industry that requires financial bonding under the 1992 EU tour package regulations.

Typical scamming includes: paying for holiday villas to private renters only to discover the villa never existed.

Numerous stories of families being stranded abroad last summer were prevalent. Robbed of their deposit and yearly vacation. You can imagine how devastating this would be for the victims. Currently there is absolutely no recourse of action that these people can take up with the authorities thereafter.

To address this lack of officialdom we have started a new non profit making association IVRA to try to establish ourselves the UK's guardian of the Holiday Rental Industry. To date we believe we are the only association of our kind. We aim to be of essential service to both renters and property rental owners. We fully financially insure clients monies against any IVRA member properties and are trying to act as a central database on fraud notification, avoidance and legislation.

The purpose of my letter is to see if there is any government support or accreditation that you could consider giving IVRA to enable us to carry out our vital work towards trying to eliminate property rental fraud. I would be only too pleased to arrange to meet you to discuss this matter further.

I look forward to receiving your response

Yours Sincerely

Toby Marsden



IVRA – International Villa Rental Association

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