

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

SEARCHING FOR ACCOMMODATION FOR THE UPCOMING COLLEGE YEAR? THE PSRA ADVISES YOU TO DO YOUR HOMEWORK!

As the new college year approaches, the search begins for countless students to find accommodation for the coming year. While students put together criteria for their search, such as location, living space and cost, there is often one important criteria that is overlooked. For those students engaging with an estate agent in their search for accommodation, it is imperative that they ensure that the agent is licensed by the Property Services Regulatory Authority (PSRA).

All Property Service Providers (Letting Agents, Auctioneers, Estate Agents and Management Agents) operating in the Republic of Ireland must hold a PSRA licence to provide a property service. Licensed Property Service Providers are regulated by the PSRA, ensuring that the consumer is protected. The individual licence is a credit card size licence, which contains the licensee name, photographic identification and a unique 6 or 12 digit PSRA licence number, always beginning with a double zero.

In recent years, reports to the PSRA regarding bogus letting agents increase at this time of year as new bogus agents appear, targeting the large number of students seeking accommodation. These bogus agents often set up online, advertising accommodation and attempting to extract financial payments from prospective tenants. In some instances, these bogus agents will claim to have a valid PSRA licence number.

When using a property service provider, clients should ask to see the property service provider's licence and note the licence number. You can then check this number on the PSRA Register of Licensed Property Services Providers to ensure that the licence is not only valid and in date, but that the provider's details match those on the Register. The Register can be found on the PSRA's website, www.psr.ie.

The CEO of the PSRA, Ms Maeve Hogan stated that "The month of August is a time when students are starting or returning to college and when a higher number of lettings take place. Students seeking to rent accommodation are strongly advised to exercise vigilance to ensure they do not fall foul of bogus letting agents and are not using an unlicensed operator."

If you are in any doubt as to whether a letting agent is licensed, you can contact the PSRA on 046 9033800 or info@psr.ie.

Unlicensed letting agents, auctioneers, estate agents and management agents are breaking the law and do not provide any consumer protection. Anyone aware of unlicensed operators is urged to contact the PSRA at info@psr.ie.

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