

PARAGON MORTGAGES PRESS RELEASE 24 AUGUST 2015

REMORTGAGE BUSINESS DECLINES FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE QUARTER

- Decline in number of owner-occupied remortgages in the second quarter
- Buy-to-let remortgages account for under a third of mortgage business (29%)
- Mortgage market remains stable

Research by Paragon Mortgages shows a decline in the number of owner-occupied remortgages in the second quarter – down from 35% in Q1 to 32% in Q2. The level of remortgage business has now halved since pre-crisis levels.

The number of buy-to-let remortgage cases have also declined from 34% in Q4 2014 to 29% in Q2 2015. This has reversed the increase experienced six months ago but mirrors the 4% decline experienced in Q2 2014.

The lender's latest Financial Adviser Confidence Tracking Index (FACT) survey also shows that getting a better interest rate (45%) and capital raising (44%) were the top reasons for obtaining a buy-to-let remortgage in Q2 - a trend which remains from the previous quarter.

However, the overall mortgage market remains stable with intermediaries reporting a small rise in new business from 22.6 to 22.7 cases in the second quarter. More than four out of ten intermediaries (46%) expect to do more mortgage business in the next 12 months.

John Heron, Managing Director of Paragon Mortgages, said: "As ever, it is important to identify trends and gain an understanding of the market from intermediaries' perspective as they are working with landlord clients on a daily basis, helping us to ensure our products are as relative to market conditions as possible for our customers.

"Although it is disappointing to see a drop in the number of remortgages, it is important to note these are incremental fluctuations and, as whole, when viewed from a broader perspective, the figures remain well within the average range."

Click here to read the full FACT report.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Paragon Mortgages is a leading provider of buy-to-let mortgages delivering lending solutions designed for professional landlords with more complex requirements. These include lending to limited companies as well as private individuals, lending on more complex property including HMO's and multi-unit blocks, higher aggregate lending limits and the ability to accommodate more complex letting arrangements including local authority leases and corporate leases along with standard ASTs.

Paragon Mortgages introduced its first product aimed at the professional property investor in 1995 and is a member of the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML), the Intermediary Mortgage Lenders Association (IMLA), National Landlords Association (NLA) and the Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA).

Paragon Mortgages is part of The Paragon Group of Companies, a FTSE 250 company and a specialist provider of finance.

In February 2014 Paragon Group launched its banking subsidiary, Paragon Bank PLC. It is a retail-funded lending bank with a direct-to-consumer Internet platform for savings. Its loan products are distributed via intermediaries. The Bank is authorised and regulated by the Prudential Regulation Authority and the Financial Conduct Authority.