



# Re:locate

THE MAGAZINE FOR RELOCATION & HR PROFESSIONALS

## Re:locate Extra

Issue 12, January 2007

Welcome to the first **Re:locate Extra** of 2007 – designed to keep you up-to-speed with developments in the world of relocation between issues of **Re:locate** magazine. We hope you are having a Happy New Year and have survived Blue Monday on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January, apparently the most depressing day of the year. Our tip for next year - perhaps the third Monday in January is best avoided when making relocation plans for employees! A leading psychologist claims the blues are caused at this particular time by a combination of miserable weather, debts accumulated from Christmas and shattered New Year resolutions. However according to Work Wise UK, there is a solution which can alleviate many of the causes of this malaise, smarter working, which can reduce the despondency and depression of commuting (and possibly relocating too) in the dark winter months - see how your organisation can benefit below.

**\* JOBS \* JOBS \* JOBS \***

**Re:locate Extra** now features an exciting range of job opportunities - scroll down for the latest vacancies, and keep checking our website at [www.relocatemagazine.com](http://www.relocatemagazine.com) for jobs online! Don't forget you can advertise vacancies on the **Re:locate** website, so whether you're a busy HR department with jobs to fill or a relocation supplier call us on 01892 891334 for details.

### Top Stories This Month

#### **Prime Central London house price growth is strongest for 27 years**

According to Liam Bailey, head of residential research at estate agency Knight Frank, prime central-London property prices grew by a staggering 28.6% during 2006, the highest rate of growth since June 1979, 27 years ago. Monthly price growth in December was 2.6%, meaning 10 out of 12 months in 2006 saw growth above 2%. Mr Bailey believes price growth has been underpinned by two elements: low supply and bonus-fuelled demand. Despite a slowdown in the number of viewings in December, over 21% of prospective purchasers have made offers on residential property throughout Knight Frank's London Sales offices, probably due to city high-fliers wanting to find a property before bonuses are distributed. Kensington, Chelsea and Belgravia have been the most popular areas, with property prices experiencing an average growth of approximately 4% in the month of December.

See the spring issue of **Re:locate** (available in March) for our property market low down.

#### **ARLA & NAEA join forces**

At simultaneous Extraordinary General Meetings, both ARLA, the Association of Residential Letting Agents, and the NAEA, the National Association of Estate Agents voted in favour of the amalgamation of the two professional bodies. Both organisations say that, though the merger aims to enable the general public and the industry at large to work with the already trusted brand names of ARLA and the NAEA, each organisation will focus on its own specialties, lettings and sales respectively.

The respective Presidents of the NAEA and ARLA, Charles Smailes and Robert Jordan, hailed the move as a major step in the protection of the consumer, the professionalism of the residential property industry and a benefit for all those employed in residential sales and lettings. "The hard work and goodwill already demonstrated by the two organisations working together will make this amalgamation under the banner of the National Federation of Property Professionals a formidable

force in the property market.”

### **School catchment areas on the way out**

Relocating parents will have to read the new admissions codes with great care for 2008 admissions. Alan Johnson, the education secretary suggested it might come to drawing names from a hat to stop middle class families monopolizing popular state schools – so the heat may be off for relocating families trying to buy a house in the best school areas. The new code also bans interviewing families and taking the parents’ background into consideration as just 3% of pupils from the best state schools are entitled to free meals (government’s key indicator of deprivation) in comparison to 17% nationally. Faith schools are affected too and must clearly state what constitutes religious affiliation. The new rules come into force in February.

### **British bid for larger slice of India’s growth**

Alistair Darling MP, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has recently joined Chancellor Gordon Brown in visiting India, with his tour concentrating on increasing bilateral trade, the next steps on world trade and taking forward the energy and climate change agenda.

Alistair Darling said, "India is one of the great opportunities for British business. With the economy growing at 8% a year, it is one we cannot afford to miss. We have much to offer and much to give. That is why I am leading the largest ever business delegation to India, over 150 of our top business people representing over 80 of our best-known companies, to deliver the message in person. "While we are the fourth largest investor in India and India the third largest in the UK we can - and should - be doing better than the current 1% trade." Delegate companies from the Indo British Partnership Network included the BG Group, Virgin Atlantic Airways, Laing O’Rourke, London Stock Exchange, CMS Cameron McKenna and GSK.

Watch out for our special feature on India later this year continuing our country focus series starting with *China Challenge: relocating to the land of the Red Dragon* in the spring issue of **Re:locate** out in March.

### **Controlled access to UK labour market for new accession countries**

Immigration experts Smith Stone Walters report: ‘The UK has decided to limit access to its labour market following countries’ accession to the European Union. In the UK, low-skilled workers from Romania and Bulgaria will be restricted to existing quota schemes to fill vacancies in the agricultural and food processing sectors. There will be no net increase in these schemes, and workers will be required to have an authorization document.’

Regarding British citizenship applications, the Home Office recently announced that new forms and guides have been introduced for naturalisation applications and the registration of minors (children under the age of 18). The guides are intended to provide easy and more comprehensive advice on how to make successful applications.

For more information, see [www.smithstonewalters.com](http://www.smithstonewalters.com)

### **Primacy Relocation bags Foursquare**

US Relocation company Primacy has recently acquired Foursquare, the Netherlands-based relocation provider with offices in London, Paris, Geneva and Amsterdam, in a move that will see an expansion in Primacy’s range of European services. The acquisition will also increase Primacy’s Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) business unit revenues by nearly forty percent and will add more than 35 relocation professionals to the Primacy team. Foursquare Relocation has enjoyed rapid growth since the company launched its Amsterdam office in 2001 with clients in the electronics, film, space exploration, automotive, information technology, and beverage industries. Primacy’s EMEA business unit is now headquartered in London and overseen by Foursquare’s Steve Marshall who becomes Primacy’s President of the EMEA region.

### **New guide from Bradford**

Bradford University School of Management has produced a timely practical guide to help managers understand the key cultural issues that could affect the performance of workers from overseas. The tips are based on the School’s experience of helping international MBA students settle in the UK quickly and working with businesses of all sizes. Particular issues covered include the need to avoid loss of face with some cultures, the impact of different teaching styles around the world, such as by learning by rote or through creative or challenging thinking, how different cultures view success and failure and how some cultures have little grasp of team working. Says Professor Arthur Francis, Dean of the School of Management,

“Business leaders need to understand and develop techniques to manage cultural difference, which can affect health and safety, product quality and efficiency – to say nothing of just not making the most of the skills of employees.’

To obtain a free copy of the guide, email [c.i.haynes@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:c.i.haynes@bradford.ac.uk) or call 01274, 236679.

### **CBI and TUC sign pledge to change the way we work**

On January 22, a number of leading businesses and organisations, including the CBI and TUC, signed an agreement for the wider adoption of smarter working practices across the UK, an initiative devised by Work Wise UK. The not-for-profit organisation is in the first of a five-year programme to promote the wider adoption of smarter working practices, such as flexible working, working from home, mobile and remote working, to bring about a workplace revolution. Says the organisation, ‘both the public and private sectors agree that the benefits of smarter working are enormous: apart from the positive implications on employees’ work-life balance and traveling time, the improvements in productivity will help the UK meet the competitive challenges presented by the emerging economies, such as India and China.’ Other organisations signing the concordat included the British Chambers of Commerce, BT, Transport for London, RAC Foundation, Scope, Technology Means Business and Henley Management. The aim is for thousands of other organisations to sign the concordat, via the Work Wise website ([www.workwiseuk.org](http://www.workwiseuk.org)) over the coming months, so why not demonstrate your organization’s commitment to revolutionising the workplace!

### **Job Opportunities**

There are currently **over 35** great jobs on our website, relevant to you and your skills. To view all job opportunities, click [here](#). For further details of one of the following **NEW** jobs, click on the ‘Read More’ button.

<b>Immigration Consultant</b>	London	Up to £45,000	<a href="#">Read More</a>
<b>In-house Global Mobility Manager</b>	West Midlands	c. £40-45,000 + Excellent Benefits	<a href="#">Read More</a>
<b>Interim Relocation Specialist</b>	Canary Wharf	Up to £40,000	<a href="#">Read More</a>
<b>Operational Manager – International Deployment Team</b>	Milton Keynes	£35,000 + £5,000 Flexible Benefits	<a href="#">Read More</a>
<b>Bi-lingual Global Mobility Consultant</b>	London	c. £20-30,000 + Bonus + Benefits	<a href="#">Read More</a>
<b>Global Mobility Manager</b>	Buckinghamshire	c. £35,000 + Bonus + Benefits	<a href="#">Read More</a>

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