



Re:locate

THE WEBSITE FOR HR & RELOCATION PROFESSIONALS

Re:locate Extra

Issue 38, March 2009

Re:locate: keeping you in touch

Welcome to *Re:locate* Extra – the electronic newsletter that keeps you informed of the latest developments in the world of relocation.

With preparations for the presentation of the *Re:locate* Awards 2008/9 well underway, suspense is mounting as the publication of the shortlist approaches. The announcement will be made on our website on Friday 27 March, www.relocatemagazine.com, and in the Spring issue of *Re:locate*, which will be hitting desks over the next few days. Winners will be honoured at a glittering Gala Awards Dinner, to be held on Thursday 7 May at the Institute of Directors, in London's Pall Mall. Our guest speaker will be the highly entertaining **David Bryon**, media personality and former MD of bmibaby, one of Europe's leading low-cost airlines.

If you haven't yet booked your place at what is sure to be the social and networking event of the year, visit www.relocatemagazine.com/index.php/gala-awards-dinner for further details and a booking form.

Networking forum event – The latest of our popular networking forum events, *Relocation: moving the goalposts*, will be held on 4 June at the Institute of Directors, Pall Mall. This will be a fantastic opportunity to hear at first hand from leading experts and HR colleagues dealing successfully with a range of relocation issues in the current difficult economic climate. For further information and a booking form, visit www.relocatemagazine.com/index.php/events

New website developments – We're constantly updating the *Re:locate* website, adding new features and improving existing ones. Check out our brand new **Suppliers Directory**, which has an extensive search facility and enhanced listings. If you'd like to be included in the directory, it's quick and easy to upload your entry, pay online and edit existing information. Go to www.relocatemagazine.com/index.php/suppliers-directory to find out more.

Also on the website is our **School Open Days** listing, a valuable resource for relocating parents. It includes information on open days being held by international schools, boarding schools, sixth forms and colleges.

Advertise your Vacancies or Find a Job on the *Re:locate* Jobs Board

Scroll down for the latest vacancies or [click here](#).

Top Stories This Month

Education in focus

- Schools Secretary Ed Balls has announced that the use of lotteries to assign places at popular state schools may be scrapped. If lotteries were abolished, schools would probably revert to the catchment area system
- A survey by The Daily Telegraph of 132 of England's 150 local councils has revealed huge differences in children's chances of getting into their preferred schools. In almost a third of local authorities, it found, fewer 11-year-olds than in 2008 got a place at their preferred school. Eleven local authorities said that more than four out of ten children were unsuccessful in doing so
- The situation has led to an increase in appeals by disgruntled parents. If your relocatees are planning an appeal against a schooling decision, there's plenty of help available, both from the increasing number of specialist law firms and from education consultants. A new book, *How to Win Your School Appeal*, by Ben Rooney, (A&C Black, £9.99), may also be useful
- A new report from *The Good Schools Guide*, which followed 700,000 girls, found that those who took GCSEs in single-sex state schools achieved better results than could have been predicted from their scores at the end of primary school. In contrast, 20% of pupils in co-educational schools did less well than could have been predicted

At *Re:locate*, we're very aware of the importance of helping you to support your relocating families. The Education section of our website is full of news, articles and practical advice, including a monthly feature by our Education correspondent, Fiona Leney. Our brand new School Open Days listing is full of useful information for those looking for school places.

In the Spring issue of Re:locate, Fiona Leney looks at getting the most out of open days.

Spotlight on immigration

According to immigration experts Smith Stone Walters, the UK Border Agency has declared the delivery of its new Points Based System (PBS) a success. So far, 4,875 businesses have registered as sponsors. However, says Smith Stone Walters, a question mark still hangs over how the effective UK Border Agency will be in auditing each licensed sponsor to ensure its ability to meet its range of sponsorship duties.

Law firm CMS Cameron McKenna is highlighting changes to Tiers 1 and 2 of the PBS, announced by Home Secretary Jacqui Smith, which will come into effect on 31 March. These include restricting access to Tier 1 (General) to highly skilled workers with Masters degrees, and requiring all vacancies to be advertised at JobCentre Plus before a Certificate of Sponsorship can be issued.

The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) has been asked to review the current arrangements and report on whether further amendments are required.

Meanwhile, a new study from the Migration Policy Institute, *Immigration in the United Kingdom: the recession and beyond*, indicates that, despite the deepening economic gloom, there is unlikely to be a mass exodus of foreign nationals who have settled in the UK.

Further information from www.law-now.com, smithstonewalters.com and www.migrationpolicy.org

Unemployment tops 2 million

John Philpott, chief economist at the CIPD, describes the latest labour market figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), which show that UK unemployment has topped the 2 million mark, as “the most doleful set of jobs figures since the start of the recession.”

The only bright spots in the figures, according to Dr Philpott, are increasing part-time employment and temporary working, which people are turning to as alternatives to the dole, and self-employment, though CIPD soundings suggest that this might reflect a noticeable tendency of some firms to cut in-house services and instead contract former employees to supply the same services as external suppliers.

Highlighting the groups, sectors and regions that have so far borne the brunt of the jobs downturn, Dr Philpott said, “The impact of the recession on jobs is fairly broadly based across the private sector. In proportionate terms, the big losers, according to the latest ONS figures, are finance and business services, closely followed by manufacturing, with shops, hotels and restaurants another sector being hard hit.

“As has been the case so far during the jobs downturn, men are being hit much harder than women, whether one looks at job prospects, redundancies or unemployment.

“The recession is having a far bigger impact on employment for the under-25s, with older people now protected by anti-age discrimination laws and employers far less willing than in previous recessions to meet the pension liabilities associated with allowing older staff to take early retirement.”

Dr Philpott said that, though different regions were experiencing their own monthly ups and down, this was a ‘we’re all in it together’ recession, with no obvious North-South divide so far.

Property downturn is global, says report

Knight Frank’s Global House Price Index for the fourth quarter of 2008 reveals that the credit crunch has now affected virtually every global housing market.

Over 80% of the locations in the index recorded negative price growth in the final three months of 2008, compared with 27% in Q4 of 2007. Although house prices increased by over 10% in seven countries (all within EMEA) during 2008, values have now started to fall in six of these.

Dubai was the strongest performer in 2008, rising by almost 60%, but much of this gain may well be wiped out in 2009. Latvia saw the biggest annual and quarterly falls, with prices plummeting 16% in the final quarter of 2008 and 33.5% overall

Meanwhile, a new report from Knight Frank suggests that the current crisis in the housebuilding industry could result in significant changes to the way new homes are financed, built and planned in Britain. *The Future of Residential Development*, a 55-page investigation compiled following interviews with over 50 key figures in development, planning, economics and academia, is the first attempt to provide a comprehensive picture of how the credit crunch and the recession are changing the residential development sector.

Find out more at www.knightfrank.com

In the Spring issue of *Re:locate*, Jon Neale, of Knight Frank, looks at the current state of the UK property market.

News in brief

London’s higher education sector defies the downturn

London Mayor Boris Johnson has praised London's universities and higher education colleges for defying the current economic downturn and increasing the number of international students studying in London by nearly 3,000.

According to the latest figures from Study London, the body representing London's 42 universities and higher education colleges, London remains the most popular destination in the world for international students. In 2007/8, 93,000 overseas students, from over 200 countries, chose higher education institutions in the UK's capital. This equals the combined overseas student population of New York and Sydney, contributing more than £1.5 billion to London's economy and supporting nearly 45,000 jobs.

According to the Times Higher Education ranking of the world's top 200 universities, London has four universities in the top 100, more than any other city in the world, and double the number of Boston. They are University College London, King's College London, Imperial College London and the London School of Economics.

At the MIPIM property conference, held at Cannes earlier this month, Mayor Johnson highlighted the multitude of investment opportunities that London offers – from the 2012 Olympics, to major infrastructure projects like Crossrail – promoting the city as the top choice in which to do business and beat the recession.

New Profile Locations website launched

Re:locate's publisher, Profile Locations, has just gone live with an exciting new website, featuring a fresh, new design and enhanced content. The site features Profile's innovative people support services, which include outplacement counselling, career counselling for partners, cross-cultural support, and relocation workshops for employers, their partners and managers, as well as its industry-leading location guides and relocation services products, such as home search and school search.

Visit www.profilelocations.co.uk to find out more.

The cost of 'free' education

The latest *Cost of Schooling* report from the Department for Children, Schools and Families, shows that parents of children at state schools are now spending a record £683 per year for every primary-age pupil and £1,195 for each secondary-school student. In 2007, the average cost of a school residential trip for a primary pupil was £48, and for secondary students, £274.

My Family Care acquires Tinies UK

My Family Care, the UK's largest provider of employee backup care benefits, has acquired Tinies UK Ltd, the crèche, holiday club and onsite nursery provider, in a move that broadens the range of family-friendly employee benefits it provides to employers. The company reported continued strong growth in its emergency child and eldercare services, with 19,000 hours of care provided in 2008 to over 5,000 parents and carers registered to use the service.

Sign of the times

Pickfords, Britain's best-known removal company and a household name, is the latest casualty of the economic downturn. It has been reported that the business, which was rescued in spring 2008 by Team Group, has called in accountant Deloitte to advise on a restructuring package.

Interdean expands into Ireland

Interdean International Relocation has announced the opening of its new Irish operation, located in Dublin. Interdean Ireland offers full moving, storage and relocation services. In partnership with Cronin Movers, it also provides office-moving services, hi-tech logistics solutions, and plant and machinery relocation.

Clearview opens new offices

Clearview Relocation has opened two new offices. The Johannesburg office handles Africa, and the New Zealand office manages Australasia. Clearview's UK head office has recently been awarded the EuRA seal.

Job Opportunities

There are currently **114** great jobs on our website, relevant to you and your skills. The top **10 'HOT JOBS'** are listed below, including new jobs posted online since the last **Re:locate Extra**. To view all job opportunities,

Position	Location	Salary	Link
Country Manager - Poland	Poland	£75,000	Link
Domestic Relocation / Property Manager	South East	£35,000 to £45,000	Link
Director Of Compensation And Benefits	South / South West	£100,000 to £140,000	Link
Expatriate Tax Manager	London	£50,000 to £60,000	Link
International Assignment / Expat Policy Consultant	South East	Negotiable	Link
International Assignment / Global Mobility Advisor	South East	Negotiable	Link
Business Development Manager	London	£45,000	Link
Operations Manager	South West	Negotiable	Link
Relocations Assignments Manager	London	£35,000 to £36,000	Link
Regional HR Manager	London	£55,000 to £56,000	Link

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