



ANGIE BRAY

Parliamentary Candidate
for Ealing Central & Acton



Conservatives

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GORDON'S EALING COMEDY STAMP DUTY ANNOUNCEMENT IN EALING IS OVER-HYPED

Ealing Central and Action Conservative candidate, Angie Bray, has expressed astonishment that Gordon Brown chose Ealing to highlight his heavily criticised announcement on Stamp Duty, where only 16 out of 722 properties currently for sale would be affected¹.

Speaking after local estate agents had condemned the change as being 'irrelevant' in West London, Angie Bray said, *'Gordon Brown clearly hadn't done his homework when he chose Ealing to make his announcement. The average house price here is £329,000, nearly double the temporary threshold announced on Tuesday.'*

'Gordon's sums don't add up either - it is now clear that the benefit to the tax-payer will be significantly less than the figures trumpeted on Tuesday. But of course with Gordon and his Government nothing is what it seems. Announcements made one day quickly unravel the next when they become subject to proper examination. Tinkering with Stamp Duty for one year only does nothing to address the real priority of helping first time buyers. He is calculating that the depressed housing market is likely to improve in due course and by that time, hey presto!, first time buyers are hit with the full force of his tax.'

'It is the Conservatives who are proposing a permanent change to the Stamp Duty regime, raising the threshold to £250,000 for first time buyers which would see 9 out of 10 of them paying no tax at all. And for Ealing, this would mean taking the average priced flat out of the stamp duty altogether.'

'That's the real change we need, but of course this isn't about doing what is right, it's about a diminished Prime Minister trying to buy off a leadership challenge.'

¹ Source: Findaproperty.com

'Most people in Ealing would see Gordon Brown's smoke and mirrors routine as comic, were it not for the fact it has such a serious impact on us all.'

Ends

For further information please contact Elvira Nawrocka on 020 8810 0579.