



**10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2011**

**Kempston Agent recognised as Property Professional of Excellence**



Shaun Bennett of Kempston-based lettings agent Watson Mitchell has successfully passed the ARLA Level 3 Award in Residential Letting and Property Management.

This well-respected award is not only a nationally-recognised industry qualification but is also an entry requirement of the Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA) - the only professional, self-regulating body specialising in raising and maintaining practice standards in the UK private rental sector.

Shaun, 23, joined the firm in September 2010 and lost no time in acquiring this very relevant qualification. He is now applying for full membership of ARLA.

Shaun said: "I decided to start studying toward this award as I was keen to enhance my professional development. I am thrilled the hard work has paid off.

"Being qualified means that I now have a good knowledge of the legal issues involved in protecting landlords and of guiding tenants through the lettings maze.

"For me, the award is not only a personal achievement but evidence of our professionalism as an agency, showing our clients that they are dealing with someone who is knowledgeable and who they can trust to do a good job."

Richard Watson, who works alongside Shaun Barnett at Watson Mitchell, said: "We could not be more proud of Shaun's achievement. Watson Mitchell actively encourages every relevant member of staff to pass their ARLA Foundation Competency exam within the first year of joining and that all managers and senior negotiators pass their Advanced Competency paper.

We strongly believe Kempston landlords and tenants will vote with their feet in support of an agency that is staffed by hard-working property professionals of intelligence and integrity, like our Shaun."

Shaun Bennett is among the steadily growing number of agents across the UK who are working with ARLA to become qualified and raise standards within their field.

Meanwhile, according to Landlord Assist, Buy-To-Let remains a sound investment as tenant demand continues to soar.

Contact Watson Mitchell on 01234 840 555 or visit [www.wmlet.com](http://www.wmlet.com)

**Photocaption:**

Shaun Barnett of Kempston-based lettings agent Watson Mitchell has now passed his ARLA Level 3 Award in Residential Letting and Property Management.

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**Note for editors:**

1. Watson Mitchell has been providing landlords and tenants with professional and customer-led services for over 25 years.
2. As one of the few regional lettings agents who are licensed by ARLA, Watson Mitchell takes the risk of letting a property. They aim to deliver a constantly high standard of care to both landlords and tenants.
3. Watson Mitchell provides comprehensive services including full management, let-only, buy-to-let and maintenance programmes as well as investment advice for those seeking to extend their property portfolio.
4. **ARLA licensed member firms** are required to operate under a strict Code of Practice and the Association Byelaws, to have an appropriate level of Professional Indemnity Insurance, are in a Client Money Protection scheme and have suitably qualified staff in all offices.
5. **ARLA individual members** are bound by and subject to the Associations Byelaws and disciplinary procedures.