

# HARROW PROPERTY BULLETIN

Harrow Edition



**DID THOSE LUXURY UPGRADES COST YOU FAMILY HOLIDAYS?**



# A BIGGER LUXURY KITCHEN OR BIGGER MEMORIES? RETHINKING WHAT WE INVEST IN

In an age where home renovations are celebrated and “dream kitchens” dominate our screens, it’s easy to believe that upgrading our homes is the symbol of success. Spacious layouts, luxury finishes, and state-of-the-art appliances promise comfort and status. But as many families pour more time, money, and energy into perfecting their homes, an important question often goes unasked: are we investing too much in our houses and too little in our families?

A well-designed kitchen certainly has its place. It’s where meals are prepared, conversations begin, and daily life unfolds. But when practicality gives way to excess, a home can become more about appearances than living. The cost of over-developing a house—financially and emotionally—can quietly steal opportunities for family holidays, shared experiences, and unhurried time together.

Family time is not something that can be postponed or replaced. Holidays, short trips, and simple moments away from routine create memories that stay with us long after renovations fade and design trends change. These experiences strengthen relationships, deepen connection, and remind us why we work so hard in the first place.

Neutral, well-proportioned homes consistently hold their value better than over-extended properties. A clean, average finish often attracts a wider audience than an expensive but highly specific refurbishment.

Traditional British semi-detached and detached homes are a perfect example. Many have stood for over a hundred years, passing through countless design phases and trends, yet they continue to look elegant and charming. Their strength lies in balance: proportion, practicality, and understated character rather than excess. Trends have come and gone, but these homes remain in style because they were never over-designed to begin with.

This raises an important question for homeowners: was the sacrifice worth it? When a refurbishment costs not only a family holiday but also fails to deliver a meaningful return, the true cost becomes clearer. Improving a home should be about longevity and liveability, not chasing trends or assuming that higher spend automatically equals higher value.

Sometimes, the smartest investment is restraint choosing timeless design over lavish upgrades and preserving both financial value and life’s experiences along the way.

This isn’t a call to abandon home improvements altogether, but an invitation to pause and reflect. A comfortable, welcoming home should support family life—not overshadow it. Before committing to the next major upgrade, it’s worth asking: Will this truly add to how we live, or could those resources be better spent creating memories together?

In the end, kitchens will age, styles will change, and renovations will be replaced. But the laughter from a family holiday, the stories from time spent together, and the bonds we build will endure. Sometimes, the most meaningful investment isn’t in making our house bigger or grander—but in making our lives richer.



# LANDLORDS: DON'T MISS THIS HIDDEN RISK

The Renters Reform Act is everywhere but many landlords are overlooking one critical issue.

## Have you checked your estate agent contract?

As tenancies move to rolling agreements, some agent contracts could lock you into 12+ months of fees, even if you stop using the agent.

### ⚠ Watch out for:

- Tenant introduction fees charged annually
- Ongoing fees after the fixed term ends
- Automatic renewals on periodic tenancies
- Charges that continue after termination

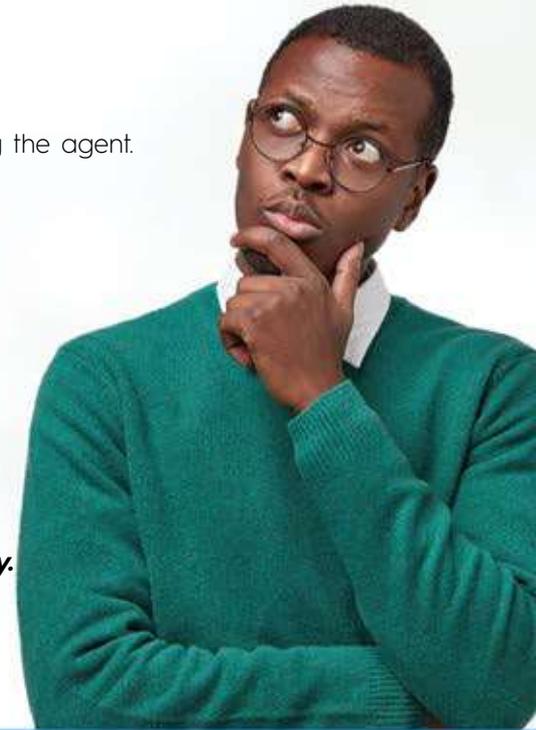
### Ask your agent

***"If I stop using you, do I still pay you while the tenant stays?"***

### If the answer is

***yes, renegotiate or exit before the law changes or risk paying fees indefinitely.***

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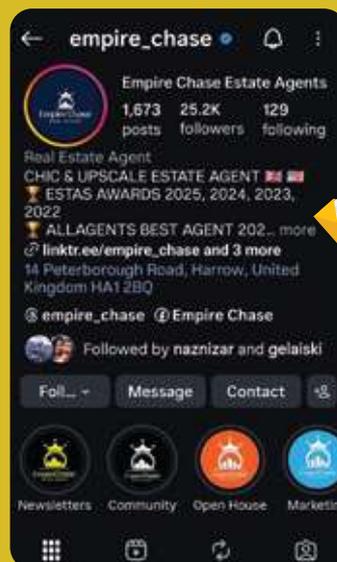
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