



PRESS RELEASE

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Landmark's response to the UK Climate Impact Programme report released today

A group of climate experts appointed by the Government has today released a report which is said to be the bleakest official assessment yet of the impact of climate change in Britain over the rest of the century. The report predicts that the number of homes at risk from flooding is likely to double to about 800,000 within 25 years. Landmark Information Group, the UK's leading provider of flood data, advises homeowners that this figure could be much higher and that actually one in four homes* in the UK are currently at potential risk from flood.

The 800,000 figure is a figure that estimates the properties likely to be affected by rising sea levels, however this does not include homes at risk from surface water (pluvial) flooding. The Pitt Review reported that pluvial flooding is believed to have caused around 50 percent of the damage from the 2007 summer floods in the UK.

James Sherwood-Rogers, Managing Director of Landmark Legal and Financial comments: *"This hard hitting report reveals some very eye-opening findings and it is now time that we really take climate change seriously. Whilst the report considers homes affected from flooding as a result in rise of sea level, it does not include those homes that are at risk from other types of flooding including ground water and surface floods. It is this type of risk that should be taken more seriously given the unpredictability involved."*

Commenting on the suggestion that summer rainfall will decrease, James says:

"With the last two summers having seen some of the worst flooding in the UK for decades we would advise homeowners to remain cautious of this prediction. While temperatures may increase, flash flooding is becoming a more regular phenomenon and it is this type of rainfall that causes devastating damage to properties."

Commenting on the maps which show rainfall predictions until 2090, James said:

"These maps are useful as a rough guide but they will not be able to help individual households establish their own specific risk from climate change."

Landmark Information Group can provide homeowners with a detailed flood report that determines the unique flood risk to an individual property. The Homecheck Professional report determines potential risk to a property by assessing a number of factors, including exclusive data on surface water (pluvial) flooding, official Environment Agency data, insurability data from Norwich Union, unique insurance claims data and a property's susceptibility to groundwater flooding.





Commenting on the overall issue of flood, James continues: *“Those homeowners, or indeed those looking to buy a property, can no longer afford to ignore the issue of flood risk. By purchasing a conveyancing-ready flood report, they can proactively find out if a property is at risk from flooding. This knowledge will allow homeowners to take the appropriate steps; whether this is to improve localised flood defences or to avoid the purchase of a specific home altogether.”*

Landmark is also working closely with the National Flood Forum (NFF) who also supports the need for comprehensive flood advice for homeowners. Joining forces, Landmark and the NFF are working together to launch the ‘Know Your Flood Risk’ campaign in an effort to increase the profile of flooding and to ensure consumers are not only aware of the risks they face, but also how to mitigate them. The National Flood Forum was set up to provide support and advice to communities and individuals that have been flooded or are at risk of flooding; www.knowyourfloodrisk.co.uk.

For further details about flood risk and the Homecheck Professional Flood report, please visit Landmark’s dedicated flood website www.homecheckflood.co.uk.

* The calculation of 1 in 4 British homes at flood risk is based on the number of residential homes within the 2008 RMS 1,000-year Inland Flood risk zones compared to the total number of homes in Britain. The flood risk map identifies areas at risk from all sources of precipitation-driven flooding including flooding from major and minor rivers and surface water flow. The 1,000-year flood risk map identifies areas that would be at risk under very extreme rainfall and flooding.

Issued on behalf of Landmark Information Group by Trimedia. For further information please contact Rachel Greaves or Kathryn Morgan on **0207 025 7572** or Rachel.Greaves@trimediauk.com.

Notes to editors:

Landmark Information Group

Landmark Information Group is the UK’s leading provider of digital mapping and land data intelligence. Its Homecheck Professional Flood Report is the UK’s most comprehensive report of its kind featuring not only data from the Environment Agency, and Norwich Union (the UK’s biggest flood insurers), but also includes records of actual flood claims in the local area. For more information and practical guidance on the increasing risk of flood visit www.homecheckflood.co.uk.

