

## Warning – getting advice on the Right to Buy

Is someone trying to advise you to buy your council home?

The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and local authorities are concerned that tenants do not always receive good advice when they ask private companies and individuals for help in buying their council homes.

Sometimes, tenants are asked to pay a lot of money for things that landlords will do for nothing – for example, Right to Buy application forms are available free from landlords. Or they are paid money as part of a deal under which the company ends up owning the property. Good for the company, which can charge a higher rent than the council could when it let the property. But not always good for tenants. The money they get may not be enough to prevent them from becoming homeless.

It is often claimed that the Right to Buy scheme is going to be changed or ended. You should contact your local council for up to date information. Others may be trying to persuade you to do something that benefits them rather than you.

If you need advice on any aspect of the Right to Buy scheme, contact your council first. If you are approached by a person or a company offering to help you buy your council home, check out what's in it for them and talk to your council before signing up to any deal.

Advice on how the scheme works generally is also available from the DCLG.

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/HomeAndCommunity/BuyingAndSellingYourHome/HomeBuyingSchemes/DG\\_4001398](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/HomeAndCommunity/BuyingAndSellingYourHome/HomeBuyingSchemes/DG_4001398)