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Nation's most expensive rental spots revealed as demand hits record levels

Esher in Surrey is the most expensive place in the UK to rent a two bed property outside of London¹, according to new research from the UK's number one property website.

Across the country demand for rental property is at a record high, with a 73% increase² in email enquiries sent from home-hunters to letting agents in the past year.

A two bed property in Esher would set you back almost £2,000 per month, with the top ten priciest areas dominated by neighbouring areas in the South East counties of Surrey, Berkshire and Oxfordshire.

Oxford comes in at number two, with a two bed average asking rent of over £1,600 per month, up by 11.7% in the past year.

Two bed asking rents in Esher have risen by a more modest 4.1% in the past year³, while the national annual increase (excluding London) is 4.6%, compared to only 2.5% in the previous year.

The two bed average asking rents in both Esher and Oxford are more expensive than Outer London, where it is currently £1,493 per month on average, up by 8.4% in the past year and a quarter cheaper than Esher.

Sam Mitchell, Head of lettings at Rightmove, says: *"The rental market has always been fast-paced but over the past year we've seen demand increase to record levels, and thousands have signed up to find out about new properties first through our instant property alerts. Rental asking prices have increased in line with this demand, with almost double the growth in the past year than the previous year. People moving out of the capital to places in the South East has contributed to double-digit growth in rents in some of the most expensive places like Oxford and Henley-on-Thames. Factors like being close to good schools and*

transport links will always come at a premium, and as these figures show it's wrong to think that anywhere outside of London will definitely be cheaper."

The top twenty most expensive places are:

Area	Ave. asking rent of a two-bed property per month
Esher, Surrey	£1,913
Oxford, Oxfordshire	£1,612
Weybridge, Surrey	£1,446
Marlow, Buckinghamshire	£1,424
Ascot, Berkshire	£1,412
Henley-On-Thames, Oxfordshire	£1,385
Egham, Surrey	£1,353
Windsor, Berkshire	£1,351
Bushey, Hertfordshire	£1,330
Guildford, Surrey	£1,309
Epsom, Surrey	£1,269
Walton-On-Thames, Surrey	£1,232
St. Albans, Hertfordshire	£1,222
Chertsey, Surrey	£1,210
Woking, Surrey	£1,209
Loughton, Essex	£1,208
Sevenoaks, Kent	£1,193
Reigate, Surrey	£1,184
Borehamwood, Hertfordshire	£1,184
Cambridge, Cambridgeshire	£1,182

—ENDS—

Notes to Editor

1 Based on two bed properties on Rightmove in April 2015.

2 March 2015 vs March 2014.

3 April 2015 vs April 2014.

For further information please contact Amy Funston on 0207 087 0605 or email amy.funston@rightmove.co.uk.

About Rightmove:

- Rightmove.co.uk is the UK's largest property website, advertising around 90% of all homes for sale via estate agents across the UK (Rightmove is not an online estate agent)
- Rightmove is the only property site with one million properties, worth around £270 billion

- People in the UK can search for residential resale, new homes, rentals, commercial and overseas properties on Rightmove
- Tools and information people can access on the site include sold prices, market trends, maps, nearby schools, Street View and floor plans
- For customers, the service is directed at four key membership groups: estate agents, lettings agents, new homes developers and overseas home agents