

EMPTY PROPERTY MATCHMAKER SCHEME

Do you own an empty home you want to sell?

Would you like to buy an empty property?

If so, then the **Property Matchmaker** may be just what you need.

What is the Property Matchmaker?

The Property Matchmaker is a 'dating agency' for empty homes: it aims to match empty property home owners who would like to sell their property with people who want to buy an empty property.

The Matchmaker is running across numerous council in Scotland.

Selling an empty home

Not all empty home owners have the time or financial resources to return their property to use, and sometimes the best solution is to sell the property to someone who can.

Whether your empty home needs repair or is 'ready-to-move-in' you are welcome to join the scheme.

Benefits for owners

- It is a FREE service
- Your home will be matched up with people who specifically want to purchase an empty property.
- It can help you find a buyer if you've been having difficulty selling or is in poor condition.
- It is a hassle-free option if you've been thinking about selling but haven't made up your mind.

Buying an empty home

If you are interested in purchasing an empty home, the Property Matchmaker can help you find the property (or properties) that are right for you. You can also let us know if there is a particular empty property that you are interested in purchasing – with your consent we can pass your contact details onto the owner.

Benefits for buyers

- It is a FREE service
- An empty home needing repair can give people on a lower budget the opportunity to buy at a more affordable price, and can be an affordable opportunity to personalise the property to meet the buyer's particular requirements and taste.

- There are a wide range of empty home types, ranging from modern to historic, move-in condition to do-er uppers, large to small, and rural to urban.
- Matchmaker Schemes are active in numerous Scottish councils.

How the scheme works

The Matchmaker Scheme is a FREE service. Each of the participating local authorities holds two lists; one of potential buyers and one of owners interested in selling their empty property. There is information relating to the property type, approximate purchase price and if needed, an advisory list of work that needs carrying out.

When the Empty Homes Officer spots a 'match' between an empty home for sale and a buyer's requirements, the empty home owner and the buyer will receive each other's details to follow-up.

Note that the Property Matchmaker is not an estate agency, and all negotiations and sales processes take place between the owner and buyer. We recommend that anyone who is seeking to sell their property obtains independent professional valuation and legal advice (from a solicitor or estate agent).

How to join

Contact housingenquiries@scotborders.gov.uk to request an owner or buyer registration form.

Or contact Shelter Scotland's Empty Homes Advisory Service at emptyhomes@shelter.org.uk

Disclaimers

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2. It is a legal requirement in Scotland for any property which is on the market to have a Home Report. Owners who are considering selling but have not yet taken the step of getting a home report may register with the scheme, however should not enter into any negotiations with potential purchasers until a Home Report is acquired.