

LETTINGS

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This two-bedroom apartment in central Oxford, right, was let at a 23 per cent increase after being refurbished



This home was one of four apartments at small development in Wantage that were bought by clients of Finders Keepers and rented out

‘Presentation of property is key in a slower market’

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A LEADING lettings agency has said had been a ‘fickle’ year so far due to ongoing Brexit negotiations and June’s snap General Election.

Finders Keepers pointed to BMW’s confirmation the Mini E electric car will be built in Cowley and Harwell Campus’s £80m expansion, which brings 200 jobs and creates a European innovation district in the Science Vale, as two positives.

But in its latest quarterly letting report, the agency revealed that the period covering July, August and September, was ‘varied’ across its eight letting offices – which are in Oxford, Abingdon, Witney Banbury and Bicester.

It described a ‘slower’ market, as demand fell year-on-year, including leads from Rightmove, Zoopla and its own website.

Finders Keepers added its Abingdon and Banbury offices saw a dip in the number of new buy-to-let landlords but experienced landlords were increasing their portfolios, despite Government measures to curb the sector.

Technology is more important, according to Finders Keepers, which let a two-bedroom house in Bicester to an American couple via a Skype viewing.

An Oxford couple rented a four-bedroom house in Marston after seeing it via Skype, as they were worried about missing out while on holiday.

The report also cites a one-

bedroom Jericho apartment which has been let two years running after being viewed only by video.

Finders Keepers said it was working with clients to upgrade properties, warning that presentation is more important in a slower market. An example is a two-bedroom apartment in central Oxford which was refurbished before being let at a 23 per cent rent increase.

The agency’s search and acquisition team, Inspired Investment, helped clients buy four apartments in a small development in the centre of Wantage. The firm’s Abingdon office listed the one- and two-bedroom flats, before finding tenants for all four with rents starting from £795 per month.

For more information about the report, see finders.co.uk