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LEADERBOARD



With the industry workforce dominated by men, Monica Royle tells us how The Association of Women in Property aims to address the inequality

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What attracted you to the male-dominated property profession?

When I was deciding what career to embark on it didn't occur to me that surveying was a male dominated profession. At GVA Grimley, I am part of the valuation team which has a 50:50 male to female ratio. However, the industry still has a significant imbalance with women representing only 15 % of the property and construction workforce.

So how can the industry address this imbalance?

Get back to basics. In my opinion it starts with raising awareness among girls at school as to what the property industry has to offer. We regularly hear from young women who stumbled into jobs in property and construction, more by luck than through good advice and helpful information. Women in Property has recently produced a leaflet called *Jobs for the girls*, aimed at girls who are making important educational choices, giving them guidance on key industry disciplines.

How is Women in Property helping its members in light of the economic downturn?

We are finding that our members are increasingly keen to attend our CPD and personal development events, where they can build professional relationships and keep up to date with topical industry issues at the same time. These are inexpensive and we will continue to keep the costs as low as possible.

What can RICS do to support this work?

We actively encourage talks from professionals across the property and construction spectrum so we would be delighted if an RICS

representative would like to come and speak to our members. We also run joint events with other professional bodies, which is of course great for networking. And we continue to support our very important National Student Awards which are growing year on year.

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