



Mortgage Lender Benchmark

THIRTEENTH EDITION: H2 2024

#MLBH224



Foreword By Jacqueline Dewey

Welcome to the thirteenth edition of Smart Money People's Mortgage Lender Benchmark (H2 2024). This report provides an in-depth view on what's working well and, perhaps more importantly for lenders and technology partners, what isn't in the intermediary mortgage market from the brokers' perspective.

Between 3 October and 29 October 2024, 987 brokers shared their feedback on 116 lenders, highlighting which lenders are excelling and which have areas for improvement. Amid the ever-changing market landscape, this research offers invaluable insights into the lender-intermediary ecosystem, shining a light on both strengths and weaknesses, as well as targeted opportunities for change or enchancement.

The Mortgage Lender Benchmark, along with detailed broker verbatims, has delivered tangible benefits to many lenders and industry stakeholders. Our comprehensive lender analysis and heatmaps provide unique, actionable insights on 65 lenders, accounting for 97% of all mortgage lending (based on UK Finance's latest analysis of gross lending).

The H2 2024 edition reveals a slight decline in broker satisfaction levels compared to H1, reflecting the challenges of maintaining momentum in a volatile market. This dip comes as lenders grapple with fluctuating interest rates, tighter affordability constraints, and heightened competition — all factors that continue to shape the UK mortgage landscape. While brokers acknowledge efforts by lenders to adapt, the dip in satisfaction may point to rising pressures on process efficiency, communication, and innovation. These findings underscore the need for sustained investment in technology, streamlined operations, and strong broker-lender relationships to navigate ongoing market uncertainties effectively.

This report delves into the key factors influencing brokers when selecting lenders, aiming to align lender offerings with broker priorities and preferences. As in previous editions, we explore brokers' experiences with CRM systems, affordability assessments, lending criteria, and product sourcing tools, highlighting the critical role of technology in enabling broker success.

As the market continues to evolve amidst fluctuating interest rates, shifting regulations, and intensifying competition, adaptability remains critical for lenders. Brokers, as indispensable intermediaries for consumers seeking clarity and competitive deals, are central to shaping market dynamics. For lenders, staying visible and relevant to brokers and borrowers alike has never been more essential. This edition provides fresh insights into brokers' business outlooks going forward, contrasting current perspectives with those from earlier in the year. It also examines emerging trends, from evolving borrower behaviours to the lasting effects of early-year market shifts, shedding light on how these forces are redefining broker strategies and client engagement.

By maintaining a pulse on these critical areas, the Mortgage Lender Benchmark H2 2024 serves as an essential resource for understanding how stronger partnerships between lenders and brokers can lead to better outcomes for all parties. In a landscape demanding constant innovation and adaptability, this report highlights strategies that support brokers and, ultimately, benefit consumers navigating the complex mortgage market.

Brokers have been honest and transparent in sharing their current experiences and aspirations for the future. We'll continue to monitor these trends in our next edition, to be published in June 2025.

Jacqueline Dewey

CEO at Smart Money People



Contents

Page

| 04 | Executive summary |
|----|--------------------|
| 06 | About the Mortages |

- 06 About the Mortgage Lender Benchmark
- 08 Can't see your results?
- 09 League tables
- 24 Who are the best lenders out there?

25 Sector insight

- **34** What's behind a broker's decision to recommend a lender?
- **36** What's behind a broker's decision not to recommend a lender?
- **39** What are borrowers looking for in their next mortgage deal?
-] **41** The evolving UK mortgage market

Page

| - | 44 | Bro | ker technology providers |
|---|-----|-----|--|
| | 55 | Dut | ed help with your Consumer y evidencing uirements? |
| | 56 | Len | der analysis and heatmaps |
| | | 57 | The 65 lenders in our detailed analysis |
| | | 58 | Bank analysis |
| | | 87 | Building society analysis |
| | | 112 | Specialist lender analysis |
| _ | | 132 | Lifetime lender analysis |
| | 145 | Bra | nd analysis |
| | | 147 | Bank brand analysis |
| | | 151 | Building society brand analysis |
| | | 155 | Specialist lender brand analysis |
| | | 158 | Lifetime lender brand analysis |
| | 160 | Len | ders included in our study |
| | 165 | Abc | out Smart Money People |

Executive summary

The thirteenth edition of Smart Money People's Mortgage Lender Benchmark captures a dynamic and evolving mortgage market. Over the last six months, brokers have reported increased activity across a broader range of lenders, reflecting heightened competition and the complexity of navigating fluctuating rates. However, while opportunities for growth remain, satisfaction levels for the products and services available have dipped slightly, with some lenders falling short of broker expectations in critical areas.

Overall satisfaction with mortgage lenders dropped by 0.3% points to 83.4%, still the joint-second highest rating recorded in the Benchmark's history. Net Promoter Score (NPS), a key measure of broker loyalty and advocacy, ranged from -41.5 to +77.8, with the market average falling to +35.9, down 2.8 points from H1 2024. Notably, the range of NPS scores narrowed, with the lowest score rising by 42.1 points compared to the last edition, but a greater number of lenders now fall below zero. This highlights an increasingly competitive environment, where brokers are becoming more discerning about the service they receive and the support they expect.

At the sector level, building societies once again lead the market, demonstrating exceptional performance in customer service and online systems. Their satisfaction score and NPS increased to **86.5%** and **+47.9** respectively, reflecting their strong relationships with brokers and consistent delivery of quality service. Lifetime lenders, however, faced a setback, with satisfaction dropping to **83.8%** and their NPS falling significantly to **+42.3** — marking a reversal after two years of steady improvements. This suggests that while these lenders have been meeting broker needs in recent editions, challenges in communication and process consistency may now be impacting their performance.

Banks and specialist lenders presented a more mixed picture. In the last year, banks showed some improvements in specific areas, such as process, speed, and lending criteria. But their overall satisfaction fell slightly to **81.9%**, with communication and online systems continuing to challenge brokers. Specialist lenders saw a modest increase in satisfaction to **81.2%**, but their NPS declined, as brokers voiced frustrations with tools, communication, and perceived gaps in service.

Despite these sector-level shifts, some market-wide trends are clear. Brokers continue to value affordability and lending criteria



The overall broker satisfaction with mortgage lenders dropped by **0.3%** to **83.4%** in H2 2024



The NPS for lenders decreased by **2.8 points**



Building societies have seen a **0.8%** uplift in their overall satisfaction

Executive summary

most highly, with process and speed also seeing meaningful improvements in the last twelve months. Business Development Managers have received positive feedback, particularly for their support on complex cases, but satisfaction with communication and online tools has stagnated. These areas represent a clear opportunity for lenders to make meaningful changes that can improve broker satisfaction and loyalty.

This edition reflects the voices of **987** brokers from **525** firms across the UK, providing feedback on their experiences with **116** lenders, covering **97%** of the UK mortgage market (based on UK Finance's analysis of gross lending). Their perspectives provide invaluable insights not only into how lenders are performing, but also into the wider challenges facing the industry. In a time of economic uncertainty, brokers continue to act as trusted advisors for borrowers, helping them secure competitive deals and navigate fluctuating rates and changing product ranges. For lenders, the stakes have never been higher — maintaining visibility and relevance in such a competitive market is critical.

In addition to sector and service insights, this report examines brokers' views on key market trends, including remortgaging activity, borrower behaviour, and equity release participation. Brokers are navigating a landscape where rising interest rates and affordability constraints are driving new borrower needs. For lenders, understanding these shifts and adapting their strategies accordingly will be essential to meet the demands of both brokers and borrowers in the months ahead. See pages 39 to 42 for a full analysis of these key topics of interest.

Technology continues to be a focal point for brokers, who increasingly call for smarter, more connected solutions. While tools like CRM systems, affordability platforms, and product sourcing software remain integral to their workflows, brokers highlighted ongoing frustrations with outdated databases and a lack of seamless integration across platforms. There's growing demand for innovation — particularly systems that leverage AI and predictive analytics to provide real-time insights, streamline processes, and reduce administrative burdens. Addressing these needs will be crucial for technology providers to maintain broker trust and relevance in an increasingly digital market. For a deeper dive into broker feedback on technology, see pages 44 to 54.

The findings of this report reflect both the challenges and opportunities within the mortgage market. Satisfaction may have dipped slightly, but the demand for better communication, enhanced technology, and broker-focused innovation creates significant potential for lenders willing to adapt. As the market continues to evolve, those who invest in strengthening broker relationships and addressing areas of frustration will be best positioned to thrive.

At Smart Money People, we're proud to help lenders and brokers uncover these insights, fostering better collaboration and stronger partnerships. By understanding what drives broker satisfaction — and what holds it back — we aim to empower the industry to deliver better outcomes for brokers, lenders, and, most importantly, borrowers. We look forward to tracking these trends in our next edition, due in June 2025.

About the Mortgage Lender Benchmark

Smart Money People's Mortgage Lender Benchmark (H2 2024) is an independent research study conducted every six months. It's formed of three core insight elements: **market, lender specific** and **technology provider.**

The market insight provides a series of league tables across the main lender types – banks, building societies, specialist, lifetime and buy to let lenders – ranking lenders' performance by overall broker satisfaction. In each edition, we also ask topical questions about broker's views on the market.

The lender specific insight benchmarks broker views on the last five lenders they've tried to place cases with. It covers key case characteristics as well as an assessment of key sales process elements such as speed to process, eligibility and communication.

We also ask brokers what they like about each lender and what they could do better, particularly focusing on the lender systems. This is summarised in a series of detailed individual lender analyses as well as comparative heat maps and brand personality analysis by lender type.

The third part of the Benchmark looks at the technology and systems used by mortgage brokers, their views on what they like and what improvements would make their jobs easier.

The three elements combined provide a comprehensive view of the mortgage market from a broker's perspective, and helps lenders, technology providers, regulators, investors and other interested parties better understand the service and proposition offered by UK lenders.



987 brokers shared feedback on the last 5 lenders they've dealt with



20 themes that matter most to intermediaries



4,755 pieces of in-depth qualitive and quantitative feedback



97% of mortgage lending in the UK represented

About the Mortgage Lender Benchmark

% responses

Firm size

| > 40 intermediaries | 14.8 |
|-------------------------|------|
| 20 to 40 intermediaries | 8.5 |
| 5 to 19 intermediaries | 33.7 |
| < 5 intermediaries | 43 |

| Region | % responses |
|--------------------|-------------|
| South East | 12.1 |
| London | 35.4 |
| North West | 11.2 |
| East of England | 10.4 |
| South West | 6.3 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 4.3 |
| West Midlands | 6.0 |
| East Midlands | 3.6 |
| North East | 4 |
| Scotland | 2.7 |
| Wales | 3.2 |
| Northern Ireland | 0.1 |

Sample population

| • | 987 brokers shared feedback |
|---|-------------------------------|
| | on the last 5 lenders they've |
| | dealt with |

- 4,755 pieces of in-depth qualitative and quantitative analysis
- 20 themes that matter most to intermediaries
- Feedback about 116 UK lenders (a full list can be found on pages 160 - 164)
- Feedback covers 97% of mortgage lending in the UK

Broker overview

- We received feedback from 525 firms
- Firms ranged in size from independent intermediaries to the largest intermediary firms in the UK
- 43% of brokers are directly authorized, 57% are appointed representatives



Unlock our insight

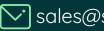


The lock icon signifies premium content. To access this valuable information, you can purchase our full report for £1,500. This includes:

- Full league table data segmented by sector and case type
- Detailed lender analyses and heatmaps covering 65 lenders
- In-depth analysis of the key themes mattering most to brokers
- Brand analysis for 65 lenders featuring in the report
- Technology provider analysis and league tables

For more detailed internal analysis, you can also purchase the complete verbatim feedback for all lenders.

Discover the full report:



Sales@smartmoneypeople.com



Banks League table

The 2024 Mortgage Lender Benchmark reveals a dynamic banking sector where certain lenders have cemented their positions as broker favourites, while others struggle to meet evolving expectations. Atom Bank continues to lead the league tables, solidifying its reputation for exceptional digital capabilities.

performed strongly, with an impressive satisfaction rating in H2, thanks to its consistent affordability tools and reliable lending criteria.

Several banks have shown notable improvement over the year. ______ improved its satisfaction score, largely due to enhancements in its online tools and relationship management.

also saw increases in broker satisfaction, driven by better communication and more transparent criteria. made a strong return to the rankings with brokers highlighting its proactive relationship management and smooth communication channels.

Conversely, some lenders faced declines. experienced a drop in satisfaction with brokers citing slower processing times as a key frustration. remains at the bottom of the rankings.

Overall, the 2024 Benchmark highlights the critical role of speed, transparency, and digital innovation in shaping broker preferences. The results emphasize the necessity for consistent investment in streamlined processes, strong digital capabilities, and effective communication to remain competitive in a rapidly evolving market. The overall satisfaction shifts between H1 and H2 2024 suggest that maintaining broker trust requires more than strong products — it demands an ongoing commitment to delivering excellent service.



Banks League table

| | Overall rating (%) | Net Promoter Score | Ease of determining max. loan amount (%) | Speed to process app. through to offer (%) | Ease of determining product eligibility (%) | Satisfaction with relationship managers (%) | Communication (%) | Online tools and systems (%) |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|---|---|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Barclays | | | | | | | | |
| BM Solutions | | | | | | | | |
| Clydesdale Bank | | | | | | | | |
| Halifax | | | | | | | | |
| Hampshire Trust Bank | | | | | | | | |
| Hodge Bank | | | | | | 1 | | |
| HSBC | | | | | | | | |
| Kent Reliance | | | | | | | | |
| Metro Bank | | | | | | | | |
| NatWest | | | | | | | | |
| Paragon Bank | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | TABLE COM | NTINUES C | ON THE NEX | T PAGE 🔶 |
| \uparrow Overall rating increased $\overset{\wedge}{\sim}$ New or retu | Irning entr | ant | | | | | | |

Overall rating increased
 Overall rating decreased

— +/- 1% change H1 2024

Lowest rated Highest rated

Banks League table

| | Overall rating (%) | Net Promoter Score | Ease of determining max. loan amount (%) | Speed to process app. through to offer (%) | Ease of determining product eligibility (%) | Satisfaction with relationship managers (%) | Communication (%) | Online tools and systems (%) |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|---|---|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Precise Mortgages | | | | | | | | |
| Santander | | | | | | | | |
| Shawbrook Bank | | | | | | | | |
| The Co-operative Bank for Intermediaries | | | | | | ה | | |
| TSB | | | | | | | | |
| United Trust Bank | | | | | | | | |
| Virgin Money | | | | | | | | |

↑ Overall rating increased

New or returning entrant +/- 1% change H1 2024

Lowest rated Highest rated

Building societies League table

The building societies sector remains a standout in H2 2024, with many lenders continuing to deliver exceptional broker satisfaction. The satisfaction retains its top position, demonstrating strong performance across key areas, including ease of finding lending value and overall customer satisfaction. Its consistency in operational excellence reflects the trust brokers place in their processes.

closely follows, maintaining its reputation for reliable service. reflecting its broad appeal and dependable processes. satisfaction rating, bolstered by robust relationship management and effective communication. Meanwhile, remained fifth, supported by strong scores in satisfaction with BDMs and communication.

performers, with both lenders delivering high scores in satisfaction with relationship management. satisfaction in this category highlights the importance of personal support in the mortgage process. Similarly, stands out with impressive relationship management ratings satisfaction is commitment to broker support.

The sector overall continues to impress in relationship management, with multiple societies excelling in personal touch and accessibility. However, some societies, such as **sector**, show room for improvement, particularly in the areas of speed of processing and online tools. Despite these gaps, the sector's overall satisfaction scores remain robust, underscoring the high level of service that brokers associate with building societies.



Building societies League table

| | Overall rating (%) | Net Promoter Score | Ease of determining max. loan amount (%) | Speed to process app. through to offer (%) | Ease of determining product eligibility (%) | Satisfaction with relationship managers (%) | Communication (%) | Online tools and systems (%) |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|---|---|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Godiva | | | | | | | | |
| Leeds Building Society | | | | | | | | |
| Leek Building Society | | | | | | | | |
| Monmouthshire Building Society | | | | | | | | |
| Nationwide | | | | | | | | |
| Newbury Building Society | | | | | | ה | | |
| Newcastle Building Society | | | | | | | | |
| Nottingham Building Society | | | | | | | | |
| Principality Building Society | | | | | | | | |
| Skipton Building Society | | | | | | | | |
| Suffolk Building Society | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | TABLE COM | NTINUES C | ON THE NEX | T PAGE |
| Overall rating increased | rning entro | ant | | | | | | |

Overall rating increased
 Overall rating decreased

— +/- 1% change H1 2024

Lowest rated Highest rated

Building societies League table



Overall rating increased

New or returning entrant +/- 1% change H1 2024

Lowest rated Highest rated

Specialist League table

satisfaction to

In the H2 2024 edition of the Mortgage Lender Benchmark the specialist sector saw several notable shifts while continuing to present a mixed performance landscape.

, while retaining the top spot, saw a dip in climbed to second place at _____, excelling in relationship management with a followed closely in third with showcasing consistent delivery across metrics.

Mid-tier performers like faced challenges in speed and process efficiency. compete with the sector leaders.

demonstrated strengths in customer eligibility but also showed steady results but struggled to

While the specialist sector remains the , there are positive signs of responsiveness to broker needs among top-tier lenders. The variation in performance, however, underscores the need for improvement, particularly in digital tools and process efficiency, to close the gap between leading and underperforming lenders.

| | Overall rating (%) | Net Promoter Score | Ease of determining max. loan amount (%) | Speed to process app. through to offer (%) | Ease of determining product eligibility (%) | Satisfaction with relationship managers (%) | Communication (%) | Online tools and systems (%) |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|---|---|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Bluestone | | | | | | | | |
| Fleet Mortgages | | | | | | | | |
| Foundation Home Loans | | | | | ٦ | ה | | |
| Interbay | | | | | ف | | | |
| Kensington Mortgages | | | | | | | | |
| Keystone | | | | | | | | |

TABLE CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE \rightarrow

Overall rating increased New or returning entrant Overall rating decreased +/- 1% change H1 2024 Lowest rated Highest rated

Specialist League table

| | Overall rating (%) | Net Promoter Score | Ease of determining max. loan amount (%) | Speed to process app. through to offer (%) | Ease of determining product eligibility (%) | Satisfaction with relationship managers (%) | Communication (%) | Online tools and systems (%) |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|---|---|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Landbay | | | | | | | | |
| Molo Finance | | | | | | | | |
| MPowered | | | | | | | | |
| Pepper Money | | | | | | | | |
| Quantum Mortgages | | | | | | ה | | |
| The Mortgage Lender | | | | | | | | |
| Together | | | | | | | | |
| Vida Homeloans | | | | | | | | |
| West One Loans | | | | | | | | |



Lifetime League table

The lifetime sector remains a strong performer, maintaining high levels of broker satisfaction and operational efficiency in H2 2024. Continues to lead with a coverall satisfaction, achieving high scores for speed of process and online tools, signalling its commitment to efficient service delivery. Continues an impressive debut in the sector, ranking coverall satisfaction and the sector, emphasizing exceptional broker relationships and communication.

also stands out with an satisfaction rating, supported by strong scores for ease. and set remain consistent performers but show slight declines compared to H1, highlighting opportunities for improvement in their speed of processing and system tools. Meanwhile, face challenges, with satisfaction ratings dropping, largely due to lower scores in speed and eligibility processes.

occupy the lower end of the league table. Both lenders experience challenges in processing speed and overall broker engagement, indicating areas for further development. Despite these disparities, the lifetime sector continues to demonstrate its strengths in delivering reliable service and fostering broker confidence.



TABLE CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE \rightarrow



Lifetime League table

| | Overall rating (%) | Net Promoter Score | Ease of determining max. loan amount (%) | Speed to process app. through to offer (%) | Ease of determining product eligibility (%) | Satisfaction with relationship managers (%) | Communication (%) | Online tools and systems (%) |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|---|---|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| LV= | | | | | | | | |
| More2Life | | | | | ہ | ר | | |
| Pure Retirement | | | | | Ŀ | | | |
| Standard Life Home Finance | | | | | | | | |

↑ Overall rating increased

New or returning entrant +/- 1% change H1 2024

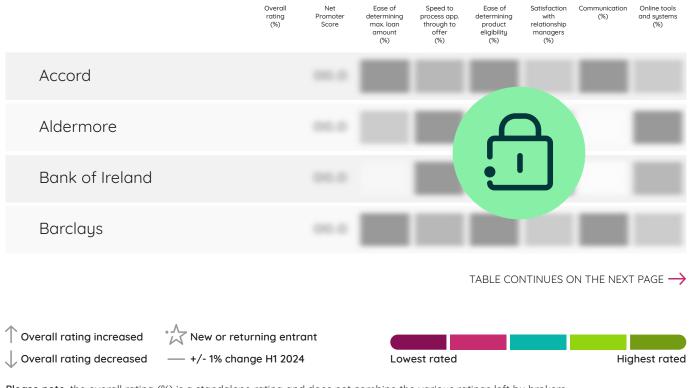
Lowest rated Highest rated

Buy to Let League table

Other notable performers include both excelling in relationship management and communication. remains a steady player in the sector, underpinned by high ratings in speed of processing applications and overall communication.

At the lower end, exhibit room for improvement. Process efficiency, communication, and online systems emerge as critical areas for development, highlighting the varying levels of service delivery across the sector.

The analysis reflects a positive trend among top performers while underscoring the challenges faced by others. Brokers remain clear on their priorities: efficiency, clarity, and robust relationship management are critical drivers of satisfaction in this competitive space.



Buy to Let League table

| | Overall rating (%) | Net Promoter Score | Ease of determining max. loan amount (%) | Speed to process app. through to offer (%) | Ease of determining product eligibility (%) | Satisfaction with relationship managers (%) | Communication (%) | Online tools and systems (%) |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|---|---|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| BM Solutions | | | | | | | | |
| Fleet Mortgages | | | | | | | | |
| Foundation Home Loans | | | | | | | | |
| Godiva | | | | | | | | |
| Hampshire Trust Bank | | | | | - | | | |
| HSBC | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Interbay | | | | | | | | |
| Kensington Mortgages | | | | | | | | |
| Kent Reliance | | | | | | | | |
| Keystone | | | | | | | | |
| Landbay | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | TABLE CON | NTINUES C | ON THE NEX | T PAGE 🔶 |
| \uparrow Overall rating increased $\overset{\wedge}{\bowtie}$ New or retu | rning entr | ant | | | | | | |

Overall rating increased
 Overall rating decreased

— +/- 1% change H1 2024

Lowest rated Highest rated

Buy to Let League table

| | Overall rating (%) | Net Promoter Score | Ease of determining max. loan amount (%) | Speed to process app. through to offer (%) | Ease of determining product eligibility (%) | Satisfaction with relationship managers (%) | Communication (%) | Online tools and systems (%) |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|---|---|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Leeds Building Society | | | | | | | | |
| Molo Finance | | | | | | | | |
| NatWest | | | | | | | | |
| Paragon Bank | | | | | | | | |
| Precise Mortgages | | | | | | | | |
| Principality Building Society | | | | | | ך | | |
| Quantum Mortgages | | | | | Ľ | | | |
| Santander | | | | | | | | |
| Shawbrook Bank | | | | | | | | |
| Together | | | | | | | | |
| The Mortgage Works | | | | | | | | |
| Virgin Money | | | | | | | | |
| \uparrow Overall rating increased \swarrow New or retu \downarrow Overall rating decreased $-$ +/- 1% chan | | | Lowe | est rated | | | Hiç | ghest rated |

Over £4 billion League table

We analysed the performance of the 12 lenders that have gross lending values exceeding £4bn, based on UK Finance's latest data. This overview includes a combined assessment of brands within these lenders, revealing notable trends and shifts in the marketplace.

retains its top position, with a slight improvement in overall satisfaction to and an demonstrating consistent leadership in key areas like speed of process and accessibility of product. follow closely, maintaining their strong performance,

reinforcing the strength of building societies in this space.

continues to hold a solid position at , supported by robust metrics in eligibility ease and communication. also sees a slight improvement, moving to , reflecting better broker satisfaction across several sub-metrics. However, challenges persist among lower-ranked lenders. remain at the bottom of the table and both show deficiencies in online tools and communication.

Overall, while top performers continue to refine their services and maintain high broker satisfaction, the gap between the leaders and laggards underscores the need for greater consistency in meeting broker expectations across the market.



TABLE CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE ightarrow

 \uparrow Overall rating increased \bigwedge New or returning entrantImage: Second se

Over £4 billion League table

| | Overall rating (%) | Net Promoter Score | Ease of determining max. loan amount (%) | Speed to process app. through to offer (%) | Ease of determining product eligibility (%) | Satisfaction with relationship managers (%) | Communication (%) | Online tools and systems (%) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|---|---|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Nationwide Building Society | | | | | | | | |
| NatWest Group | | | | | | | | |
| Santander UK | | | | | | | | |
| Skipton Building Society | | | | | | | | |
| TSB Bank | | | | | | | | |
| Virgin Money Plc | | | | | | | | |
| Yorkshire Building Society | | | | | | | | |

↑ Overall rating increased

New or returning entrant +/- 1% change H1 2024

Lowest rated Highest rated

Who are the best lenders out there?

We believe it's important to recognise the lenders who are doing a great job, and our badges are an easy way for brokers to identify which lenders are doing just that.

The lenders in our table have received the highest rated feedback across the themes that matter most to brokers, as well as recognising who is performing well within their sector.



| Best bank | \rightarrow | Atom Bank |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Best building society lender | | Principality Building Society |
| Best buy to let lender | \rightarrow | Landbay |
| Best lifetime mortgage provider | | Pure Retirement |
| Best specialist lender | \rightarrow | Pepper Money |
| Great for lending criteria | | |
| Great for underwriting | \rightarrow | |
| Great for online systems | | <u> </u> |
| Great for speed to offer | \rightarrow | |
| Great for communication | | |
| Great for relationship management | \rightarrow | |

Discover how you can purchase a badge from Smart Money People

sales@smartmoneypeople.com

Sector insight Top level

The latest data from H2 2024 reflects subtle shifts across the UK mortgage sector, with varying trends in broker satisfaction. Overall satisfaction marginally declined to **83.4%** (**-0.3%** points), while NPS dipped slightly to **+35.9** (**-2.8** points). Despite these small shifts, some sectors and metrics showed notable changes.

Building societies remain the strongest sector, maintaining their lead with the highest overall satisfaction at **86.5%** (**+0.8%** points). Their NPS rose to **+47.9** (**+4.2** points), emphasizing brokers' continued confidence in their service. Their strong performance in customer service and operational efficiency, particularly in lending value and processing speed, reinforces their status as market leaders.

Lifetime lenders experienced a sharper decline, with satisfaction dropping to **83.8%** (**-1.7%** points) and a significant NPS decrease to **+42.3** (**-10.9** points). This marks a reversal of the positive momentum seen earlier, indicating room for improvement despite solid scores in process speed and relationship management. Banks saw a slight reduction in satisfaction to **81.9%** (**-0.8%** points), with communication and online tools continuing to challenge brokers. On the other hand, specialist lenders demonstrated modest progress, with satisfaction rising to **81.2%** (**+0.9%** points), but their NPS dropped significantly to **+19.1** (**-6.1** points), signalling ongoing challenges in communication and efficiency.

Sector-wide, ease and relationship management remain strong, however, stagnation in communication and online tools highlights ongoing areas for improvement. As brokers increasingly prioritise seamless and efficient processes, these remain critical areas for lenders to address to sustain competitiveness in the evolving market landscape.

| | | | Overall rating (%) | Net Promoter Score | Ease of determining max. loan amount (%) | Speed to process app. through to offer (%) | Ease of determining product eligibility (%) | Satisfaction with relationship managers (%) | Communication (%) | Online tools and systems (%) |
|-------------|------------------|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|---|---|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | All lenders | H2 2024 | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | All lenders | H1 2024 | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Develo | H2 2024 | | | | | Д | | | |
| 2 Bo | Bank | H1 2024 | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | H2 2024 | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Building society | H1 2024 | | | | | | | | |

TABLE CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE ightarrow



Sector insight Top level

| | | | Overall rating (%) | Net Promoter Score | Ease of determining max. loan amount (%) | Speed to process app. through to offer (%) | Ease of determining product eligibility (%) | Satisfaction with relationship managers (%) | Communication (%) | Online tools and systems (%) |
|------------|-------------|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|---|---|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 4 | l ifating a | H2 2024 | | | | | | | | |
| 4 Lifetime | Lifetime | H1 2024 | | | | | Δ | | | |
| _ | | H2 2024 | | | | | | | | |
| 5 Specie | Specialist | H1 2024 | | | | | | | | |



How do lender types differ?

Broker sentiment across the three key areas—People, Product & Lending, and Process—remains consistent with previous reporting periods. However, shifts in themes are evident, underscoring the evolving landscape of the UK mortgage lender market.

There has been a notable shift towards feedback on lender products and lending, which now accounts for 23.6% of all comments and saw positivity rise by 1.7%-points. While people themes saw a slight share increase of 0.4%-points, it had the biggest fall in sentiment for consecutive editions and is visible across all the sectors except building societies. And operational improvements were called for again as slow and difficult processes were the main source of frustration. Building societies maintain their position as market leaders in innovation, with brokers praising their competitive rates and innovative products. They received the highest sentiment scores the three areas, underscoring their continued focus on quality interactions with brokers and delivering value through tailored products. Lifetime lenders' product feedback remains steady but less competitive compared to other sectors, with a sentiment of 71.6%.

Specialist lenders continue to excel in people themes, maintaining their impressive position, driven by their personalised broker support and relational strategies. However, process feedback has turned increasingly negative, calls for improved portals. Banks however saw a decline in people sentiment to 62.4%, reflecting concerns about broker interactions and responsiveness.





Can't see your results?

For H2 2024 we captured feedback on 116 different UK lenders. If your company doesn't feature in our league tables and lender analysis, we'll likely still have feedback about you, just not enough to meet our threshold.

However, our insight capabilities means we can work with you to create your own survey to your broker list, and combine with the results from our full H2 2024 report. You'll still benefit from our benchmarking expertise, and receive actionable insights tailored to your firm.



Collect We'll design an individual survey for you to share with your brokers



Benchmark We'll compare your results against our wider Mortgage Lender Benchmark



Learn You'll gain actionable insights with a tailored report and face to face briefing

Discover how the power of insight can benefit your business with Smart Money People



\sub sales@smartmoneypeople.com



Mortgage Lender Benchmark

Broker technology providers



Need any help with your Consumer Duty evidencing requirements?

As the UK's most comprehensive financial services review site, Smart Money People can help your company to evidence good customer outcomes for Consumer Duty.

We offer the ability to ask your customers key questions about their experience with you. We focus on the key elements of Consumer Duty, so you can track and record against outcomes using an independent data source.

Plus, we also have historical data on the UK financial services market for whether customers felt fairly treated, whether they felt they got good value for money, and whether they understood the product details.

With the ability to benchmark, and provide independent insight into your data, Smart Money People is here to help you monitor and track your Consumer Duty requirements.

Discover how we can help with your Consumer Duty requirements



Sales@smartmoneypeople.com



Capture your data

Our always-on surveys help you save time by showing how good your customer outcomes are.



See where you rank

We'll help you spot areas to grow by benchmarking your data against your competitors.







Mortgage Lender Benchmark

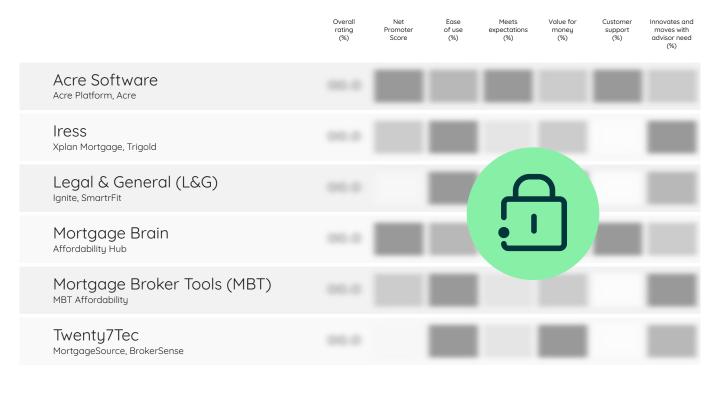
Lender analysis & heatmaps

Affordability League table

The affordability provider sector in H2 2024 demonstrates a diverse range of performances, reflecting both strengths and challenges within the market. I leads the pack with an impressive overall satisfaction score of sector demonstrates and user-friendly solution.

Providers like deliver consistent results, reporting to meet brokers' operational needs effectively. Meanwhile, deliver consistent results, reporting their ability to meet basic expectations but with opportunities to enhance perceived value and innovation. deliver, at the lower end of the table, faces significant challenges with its overall satisfaction and NPS, highlighting the need for improvements in functionality and meeting broker expectations.

The sector as a whole underscores the importance of balancing usability, reliability, and innovation to address the evolving demands of brokers and maintain competitiveness in a fast-paced market. While leaders set the benchmark, other providers must focus on enhancing their offerings to close the gap and build stronger broker relationships.





CRM League table

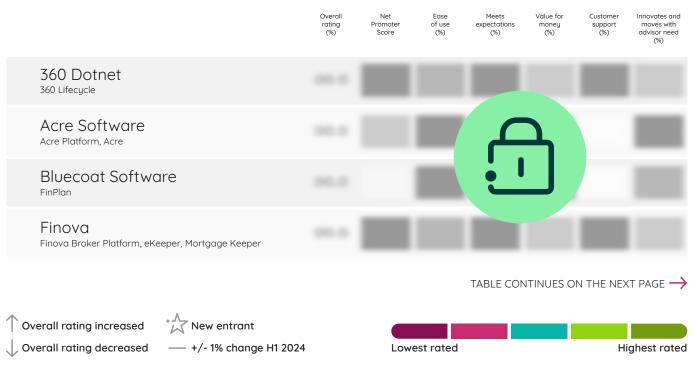
We asked brokers to tell us which CRM provider they use. They also left a series of ratings across key themes, and told us what they liked and/or what could be improved from these providers. CRM systems are vital for brokers as they integrate various functions of the mortgage process, from client management to data handling and communications. Effective CRM systems can drastically enhance brokers' efficiency, allowing for better client service and streamlined operations.

The H2 2024 analysis of CRM providers highlights shifting broker preferences and evolving performance trends within the sector. The rankings with an overall satisfaction score of the ranking its position as a top performer and excelling in ease of use.

Despite some strong performances, the sector as a whole faces persistent challenges. Providers like continue to perform reasonably well, particularly in areas like innovation and customer support, but have seen slight drops in satisfaction compared to their previous scores. On the other hand face notable difficulties, with overall ratings of content respectively, coupled with steep declines in Net Promoter Scores (NPS). This reflects growing broker frustration, particularly around ease of use and innovation, where their scores lag behind peers.

Brokers consistently value CRM providers that adapt to their needs, with

achieving strong marks for innovation. However, lower-rated providers highlight a gap in delivering the efficiency and tailored solutions brokers increasingly demand. As the CRM sector continues to evolve, providers that prioritise user experience, innovation, and robust customer support are better positioned to enhance broker loyalty and improve satisfaction scores in the long term.



CRM League table

| | Over ratin (%) | g Promoter | Ease of use (%) | Meets expectations (%) | Value for money (%) | Customer support (%) | Innovates and moves with advisor need (%) |
|---|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Intelliflo Intelligent Office | | | | | | | |
| lress Xplan Mortgage, Trigold | | | | | | | |
| Mortgage Advice Bureau (MIDAS, echo | MAB) | | | | | | |
| Mortgage Brain | | | | ح | 2 | | |
| One Mortgage System Lto | d | | | | | | |
| Primis Mortgage Network | | | | | | | |
| Smartr365 _{Smartr365} | | | | | | | |
| Stonebridge Group | | | | | | | |



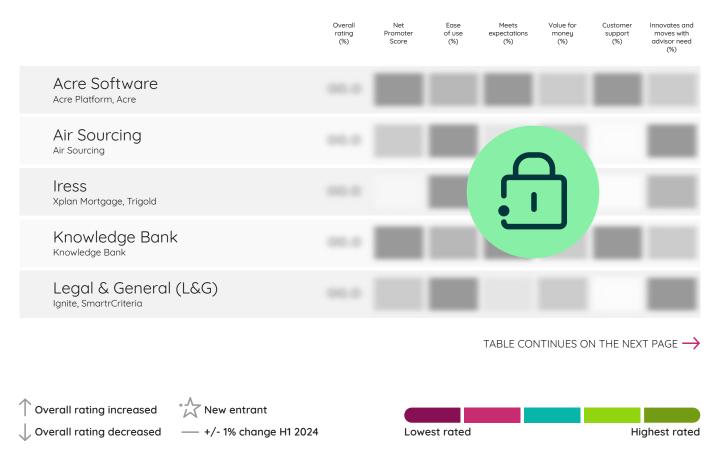
Criteria sourcing League table

The latest performance review of criteria sourcing providers highlights their continued importance in aiding brokers to efficiently match client needs with lender criteria. These tools remain a vital aspect of the mortgage process, streamlining complex sourcing challenges and enabling brokers to provide better client services.

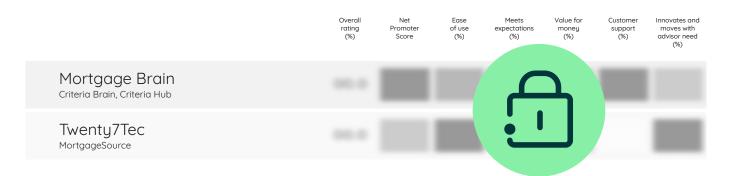
lead the sector with strong performances, excelling in ease of use, customersupport, and innovation, withachieving the highest NPS.with balanced scores across metrics, whileshow steady but moderateperformance, leaving room for growth in innovation and meeting expectations.

While the sector maintains its position as one of the highest-rated technology areas, there is variability among providers. Leaders like exemplify innovation and consistent delivery, whereas lower-scoring providers like highlight the need for focused improvements, particularly in usability and customer support.

The growing reliance on these tools underscores the need for continued innovation and support to meet evolving broker demands. Providers that balance ease of use with advanced functionality and responsive customer service will be best positioned to lead in this competitive segment.



Criteria sourcing League table



↑ Overall rating increased

✓ New entrant
 → +/- 1% change H1 2024



Product sourcing League table

Product sourcing tools are essential in the mortgage industry, enabling brokers to efficiently match client needs with a vast array of lender offerings. This edition, leads the sector with an impressive overall rating of excelling in ease of use, customer support, and innovation. follows closely with strong performances in meeting broker expectations and overall reliability, while and maintain solid standings, offering consistent value and support.

However, providers such as lag behind, reflecting opportunities for improvement in areas like customer support and innovation. As the market evolves, product sourcing providers that prioritise usability, adaptability, and broker-focused solutions will continue to set themselves apart in this competitive landscape. These tools remain a critical asset for brokers, with those excelling in service and innovation driving the highest satisfaction levels.

| | Overall rating (%) | Net Promoter Score | Ease of use (%) | Meets expectations (%) | Value for money (%) | Customer support (%) | Innovates and moves with advisor need (%) |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Acre Software Acre Platform, Acre | | | | | | | |
| Air Sourcing Air Sourcing | | | | | | | |
| lress Xplan Mortgage, Trigold | | | | ٦ | ך | | |
| Mortgage Advice Bureau (MAB) MIDAS | | | | Ŀ | | | |
| Mortgage Brain MortgageBrain Classic, MortgageBrain Anywhere, Sourcing Brain | | | | | | | |
| Twenty7Tec MortgageSource | | | | | | | |



Please note, the overall rating (%) is a standalone rating and does not combine the various ratings left by brokers.



The 65 lenders in our detailed analysis

Our detailed lender analysis summarises broker feedback and covers key sales process aspects such as speed to process, eligibility and communication. It also looks at what brokers like about each lender and what they could do better.

We've pulled the feedback data together into heatmaps comparing lenders in each sector for key themes.

The 65 lenders included are below:

Banks

Aldermore Allica Bank Atom Bank Bank of Ireland Barclaus **BM** Solutions Clydesdale Bank Halifax Hampshire Trust Bank Hodge Bank **HSBC** Kent Reliance Metro Bank NatWest Paragon Bank Platform Precise Mortgages Santander Shawbrook Bank TSB United Trust Bank Virgin Money

Building societies

Accord Coventry Building Society Darlington Building Society Dudley Building Society Family Building Society Godiva Leeds Building Society Leek Building Society Monmouthshire Building Society Nationwide

Specialist lenders

- Bluestone Fleet Mortgages Foundation Home Loans Interbay Kensington Mortgages Keystone Landbay Molo Finance
- MPowered Pepper Money Quantum Mortgages The Mortgage Lender Together Vida Homeloans West One Loans

Newbury Building Society

Newcastle Building Society

Nottingham Building Society

Principality Building Society

Skipton Building Society

Suffolk Building Society

The Mortgage Works

Tipton Building Society

West Brom Building Society

Lifetime lenders

Aviva Canada Life Just L&G LiveMore Capital LV= More2Life Pure Retirement Standard Life Home Finance

Lender ABC

| Overall rating | Lender ABC 87.2 | \uparrow | All Bank 82.7 | All Lenders 83.7 |
|--|--------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Net Promotor Score (NPS) | +53.9 | \uparrow | +35.3 | +38.7 |
| Ease of determining max. loan amount % | 89.3 | \uparrow | 84.6 | 84.9 |
| Speed to process applications through to offer % | 82.8 | \uparrow | 78.6 | 78.5 |
| Ease of determining product eligibility % | 87.0 | \uparrow | 83.4 | 83.5 |
| Satisfaction with relationship managers % | 77.2 | | 81.1 | 82.1 |
| Lender communication % | 80.3 | — | 79.3 | 80.3 |
| Satisfaction with online tools and systems % | 84.4 | \uparrow | 78.8 | 80.4 |

Lender ABC's DNA



Commentary

- Lender ABC are back to 6th in bank league table and have seen an 11.9 points improvement in NPS. Lender ABC continue to score above the sector and market average in all areas except satisfaction with BDM's.
- Brokers still dislike the removal of allocated BDMs, and some felt the restructure was a 'backward step'.
 Feedback on the BDM phone line was mixed and it's clearly not meeting everyone's needs.
- Competitive rates and a strong product range continue to attract positive sentiment from brokers. However, their dual pricing attracted some negative feedback. Lender ABC score highly for criteria with brokers noting their flexibility and clarity. Brokers like that Lender ABC will consider a range of incomes, are generous on affordability and will consider adverse credit.
- As with other lenders, ease is a key strength for Lender ABC, and they are seen as being quick to offer with straightforward processes.

- Whilst some brokers praised Lender ABC's common sense and quick efficient underwriting this was not universal. Requests for too much paperwork, irrelevant questions and 'requesting items piecemeal' were common frustrations and underpinned a drop in sentiment.
- Online systems again was the theme to receive the most comments (18.0%), with the majority of brokers positive about Lender ABC's new 'easy to use' system.
- Overall, Lender ABC continue to be seen as a generous and competitive lender, but the lack of BDM support and issues with underwriting are impacting overall broker sentiment.

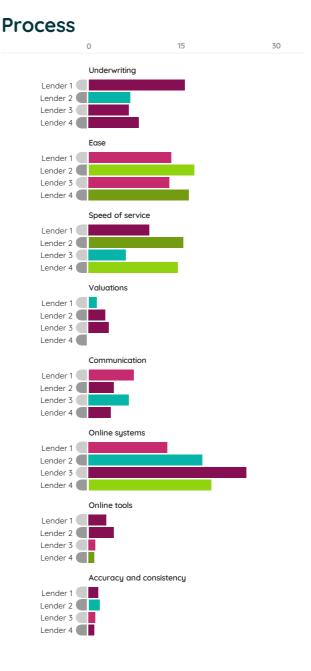
"Excellent, seamless product transfer process, backed by a very capable IT system. The ability to cancel and rebook the PT is also excellent."

Lender heatmap

Within the Mortgage Lender Benchmark, we ask brokers to 'review your experience with the lender, what did you like and/or what could be better.' This question allows brokers to tell us what matters to them, in their own words, which helps us to understand the strengths and weaknesses of each lender.





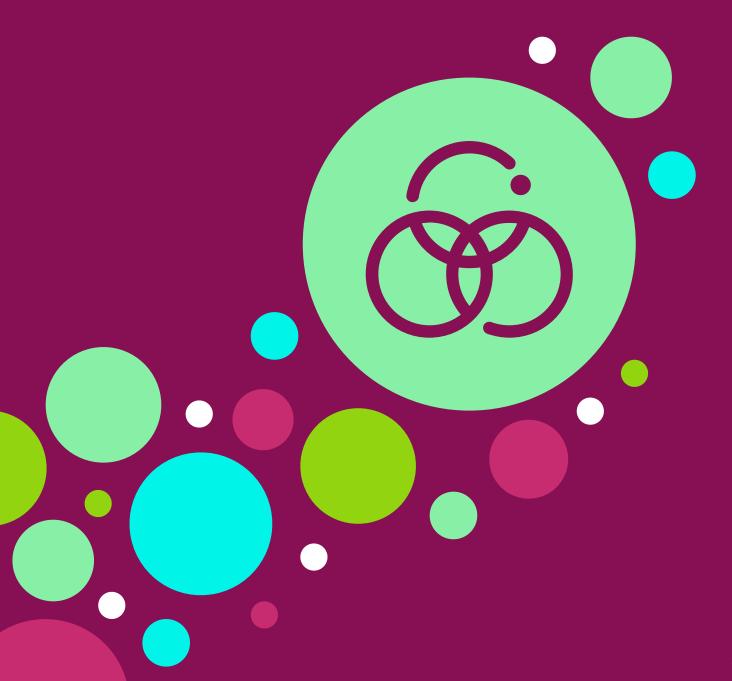






Mortgage Lender Benchmark

Brand analysis



Brand analysis

We asked brokers the following question for each lender they chose to leave feedback for:

Given your experience, what three words would you use to describe (lender name)

The answers to this question allow us to understand more about how brokers view each lender's brand.

The tables across the following pages show the top 10 words used for each lender and compare them with the top words from our H1 2024 edition, published in June 2024.

Below is a visual representation of all the words used to describe lenders within this edition.



Brand analysis

Sample firms Page 1 of 1

| | Lend | Lender 1 | | Lender 2 | | ler 3 |
|----|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| | H1 2024 | H2 2023 | H1 2024 | H2 2023 | H1 2024 | H2 2023 |
| 1 | Easy | Easy | Easy | Easy | Quick | Good |
| 2 | Quick | Quick | Flexible | Good | Easy | Easy |
| 3 | Efficient | Good | Helpful | Quick | Competitive | Quick |
| 4 | Reliable | Efficient | Fast | Helpful | Slow | Efficient |
| 5 | Fast | Simple | Quick | Flexible | Reliable | Simple |
| 6 | Competitive | Competitive | Great | Efficient | Efficient | Clear |
| 7 | Helpful | Helpful | Simple | Reliable | Flexible | Slow |
| 8 | Simple | Fast | Efficient | Fast | Great | Friendly |
| 9 | Flexible | Reliable | Friendly | Competitive | Helpful | Great |
| 10 | Great | Slow | Slow | Simple | Simple | Helpful |

| | Sector | Feedback volume |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Accord | Building Society | > 100 |
| Aldermore | Bank | 50 - 99 |
| Allica Bank | Bank | 10 - 19 |
| Allied Irish Bank | Bank | < 5 |
| April Mortgages | Specialist | < 5 |
| Atom Bank | Bank | 30 - 49 |
| Aviva | Lifetime | 20 - 29 |
| Bank of Ireland | Bank | 30 - 49 |
| Barclays | Bank | > 100 |
| Bath Building Society | Building Society | <5 |
| Birmingham Bank | Bank | < 5 |
| Bluestone | Specialist | 20 - 29 |
| BM Solutions | Bank | > 100 |
| Cambridge Building Society | Building Society | < 5 |
| Canada Life | Lifetime | 20 - 29 |
| CHL | Specialist | 5 - 9 |
| Chorley Building Society | Building Society | < 5 |
| Clydesdale Bank | Bank | 10 - 19 |
| Coventry Building Society | Building Society | > 100 |
| Crystal Specialist Finance | Specialist | < 5 |
| Cumberland Building Society | Building Society | < 5 |
| Danske Bank | Bank | < 5 |
| Darlington Building Society | Building Society | 10 - 19 |
| Dudley Building Society | Building Society | 10 - 19 |
| Equifinance | Specialist | < 5 |

| Lender | Sector | Feedback volume |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Evolution Money | Specialist | < 5 |
| Family Building Society | Building Society | 10 - 19 |
| Family Finance | Specialist | < 5 |
| Fleet Mortgages | Specialist | 20 - 29 |
| FOLK2FOLK | Specialist | < 5 |
| Foundation Home Loans | Specialist | 20 - 29 |
| Furness Building Society | Building Society | < 5 |
| Gatehouse Bank | Bank | < 5 |
| Generation Home | Specialist | 5 - 9 |
| Glenhawk | Specialist | < 5 |
| Godiva | Building Society | 30 - 49 |
| Halifax | Bank | > 100 |
| Hampshire Trust Bank | Bank | 10 - 19 |
| Hanley Building Society | Building Society | < 5 |
| Hinckley & Rugby Building Society | Building Society | < 5 |
| Hodge Bank | Bank | 10 - 19 |
| Holme Bridging Finance Solutions | Specialist | < 5 |
| HSBC | Bank | > 100 |
| Interbay | Specialist | 20 - 29 |
| Interbridge Mortgages | Specialist | 5 - 9 |
| Just | Lifetime | 10 - 19 |
| Kensington Mortgages | Specialist | 30 - 49 |
| Kent Reliance | Bank | 30 - 49 |
| Keystone | Specialist | 10 - 19 |
| L&G | Lifetime | 20 - 29 |

| Lender | Sector | Feedback volume |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Landbay | Specialist | 10 - 19 |
| Landmark Mortgages | Specialist | < 5 |
| Leeds Building Society | Building Society | > 100 |
| Leek Building Society | Building Society | 10 - 19 |
| Lendco | Specialist | < 5 |
| LendInvest | Specialist | 5 - 9 |
| LiveMore Capital | Lifetime | 10 - 19 |
| Loughborough Building Society | Building Society | < 5 |
| LV= | Lifetime | 10 - 19 |
| Mansfield Building Society | Building Society | 5 - 9 |
| Market Financial Solutions | Specialist | < 5 |
| Market Harborough Building Society | Building Society | < 5 |
| Marsden Building Society | Building Society | < 5 |
| Melton Building Society | Building Society | < 5 |
| Metro Bank | Bank | 20 - 29 |
| Molo Finance | Specialist | 10 - 19 |
| Monmouthshire Building Society | Building Society | 10 - 19 |
| More2Life | Lifetime | 30 - 49 |
| MPowered | Specialist | 20 - 29 |
| MT Finance | Specialist | < 5 |
| Nationwide | Building Society | > 100 |
| NatWest | Bank | > 100 |
| Newbury Building Society | Building Society | 10 - 19 |
| Newcastle Building Society | Building Society | 10 - 19 |
| Nottingham Building Society | Building Society | 10 - 19 |

| Lender | Sector | Feedback volume |
|--|------------------|-----------------|
| Octane Capital | Specialist | < 5 |
| Paragon Bank | Bank | 30 - 49 |
| Pepper Money | Specialist | 30 - 49 |
| Perenna | Specialist | < 5 |
| Platform | Bank | 50 - 99 |
| Precise Mortgages | Bank | 30 - 49 |
| Principality Building Society | Building Society | 50 - 99 |
| Progressive Building Society | Building Society | < 5 |
| Pure Retirement | Lifetime | 30 - 49 |
| Quantum Mortgages | Specialist | 10 - 19 |
| Redwood Bank | Bank | < 5 |
| Responsible Lending | Lifetime | 5 - 9 |
| Saffron Building Society | Building Society | 5 - 9 |
| Santander | Bank | > 100 |
| Scottish Widows | Bank | 5 - 9 |
| Selina Finance | Specialist | 5 - 9 |
| Shawbrook Bank | Bank | 10 - 19 |
| Skipton Building Society | Building Society | > 100 |
| SOMO | Specialist | < 5 |
| Spring Finance | Specialist | < 5 |
| Staffordshire Railway Building Society | Building Society | < 5 |
| Standard Life Home Finance | Lifetime | 20 - 29 |
| State Bank of India | Bank | < 5 |
| Step One Finance | Specialist | < 5 |
| Suffolk Building Society | Building Society | 10 - 19 |

| Lender | Sector | Feedback volume |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Sun Life | Lifetime | < 5 |
| Swansea Building Society | Building Society | < 5 |
| Tandem | Bank | 5 - 9 |
| Teachers Building Society | Building Society | < 5 |
| The Mortgage Lender | Specialist | 20 - 29 |
| The Mortgage Works | Building Society | > 100 |
| Tipton Building Society | Building Society | 10 - 19 |
| Together | Specialist | 20 - 29 |
| TSB | Bank | 50 - 99 |
| Tuscan Capital | Specialist | < 5 |
| United Trust Bank | Bank | 10 - 19 |
| Vernon Building Society | Building Society | < 5 |
| Vida Homeloans | Specialist | 10 - 19 |
| Virgin Money | Bank | > 100 |
| West Brom Building Society | Building Society | 20 - 29 |
| West One Loans | Specialist | 20 - 29 |



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of consumers trust reviews from other consumers



69%*

of consumers are likely to change their mind after reading reviews



23% vs **17%***

More people use reviews to decide which financial products to use than an advisor





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Smart Money People is different from other review sites. We focus solely on financial services, capturing unbiased reviews and research feedback from both customers and intermediaries. This data allows us to evaluate their total financial experience, from brand NPS or satisfaction through to the most important product features.

We also use this data to define industry and sector benchmarks for customer service and communications effectiveness, as well as measure how successfully a business is performing against competitors or regulatory regimes, such as treating customers fairly or consumer duty. Smart Money People also run the British bank awards, Insurance choice awards and the Consumer credit awards each year, alongside releasing reports throughout the year using our customer insight, including our Mortgage Lender Benchmark.

Ultimately, our goal is to help businesses make better business decisions and collectively, for everyone to make better financial decisions and choices.

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