



PRESS RELEASE

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HOUSE BUILDERS CALL FOR INCREASED RESOURCES TO GIVE SCOTLAND A NEW PLANNING SYSTEM

Scotland's house building industry, the largest user of the planning system and the largest source of private investment in the Scottish economy, has submitted its response to the Scottish Executive White Paper on modernising the planning system.

Noting that the White Paper meets many of the concerns that the industry has previously raised with Ministers, Homes for Scotland, the organisation representing companies building 95% of the country's new homes, has concentrated on a number of crucial implementation issues.

Bruce Black, Homes for Scotland Executive Director, said:

"The positive tone of the White Paper and Ministers' stated determination to make the planning system work more efficiently and in Scotland's best interests are to be welcomed. But there is still some anxiety as to how the proposals will be delivered. This will be dependent on a culture change within local authorities and within the planning profession and we need to be confident that this will happen.

For example too many Local Plans are seriously out of date. Unless they are quickly brought up to date and kept fully up to date we will be no further forward.

There are certainly major resource issues around the number of planners being trained and employed but, unless there is a step change in the priority this is given both by the Scottish Executive and by local authorities, a unique opportunity to give Scotland a fit for purpose planning system may be lost."

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A copy of Homes for Scotland's full response (19 pages) is available on its website at www.homesforscotland.com



For further information, please contact:
Jennifer Kennedy – Homes for Scotland
Tel: 0131 243 2595
Email: j.kennedy@homesforscotland.com

Notes to editors:

Homes for Scotland (www.homesforscotland.com) is the representative membership body for the home building and residential development industry in Scotland. Its member companies provide 95% of all new homes in Scotland. The largest user of the planning system in Scotland, the industry is also the largest source of private investment in the Scottish economy contributing around £5 billion and employing more than 110,000 people.