



PRESS RELEASE

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**BAD PLANNING REFORM THREATENS SCOTLAND'S FUTURE PROSPERITY
SAYS HOUSE BUILDING INDUSTRY**

Scotland's house building industry has submitted its views on the Scottish Executive's current consultations on the planning system, vigorously opposing the introduction of a third party right of appeal and calling for the design of a system which recognises and responds to the need to release land for development.

Bruce Black, Executive Director of Homes for Scotland, the body which represents companies building over 90% of new homes in Scotland, said:

"As the largest user of the planning system in Scotland, the outcome of these consultations are vital to the future of the industry. England and Wales have already rejected a third party right of appeal as undemocratic. Its introduction in Scotland would add significantly to the housing supply crisis already facing the country by stifling development where and when it is most needed. Quite simply, fewer new houses would be provided and people in need of a home would not be able to find or afford one."

But this is not to say that the house building industry is opposed to greater community involvement. In fact, quite the opposite is true as Black explained:

"We fully support the need for maximum participation in the planning process but this must be at the right stage so we are urging the Executive to introduce measures to bring community representatives and the industry together when plans are being prepared, not when development proposals are being brought forward within approved local authority development plans.

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“If Scotland is to prosper it needs a planning system that does not focus on whether development should take place but rather how it takes place to enhance the economic, social and environmental well-being of our communities.”

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Note to editors:

1. 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 over 90% all new homes in Scotland. The largest user of the planning system in Scotland, the industry also contributes more than £3.5 billion to the economy and employs more than 110,000 people.
2. Homes for Scotland’s responses to the Scottish Executive’s consultations on “Rights of Appeal in Planning” and “Making Development Plans Deliver” are available at: <http://www.homesforscotland.com/pages/layout.asp?did=41>