



PRESS RELEASE

Homes for Scotland issued the following open letter to Nicola Sturgeon, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing in response to the Scottish Government's discussion paper *Firm Foundations: The Future of Housing in Scotland*, published today, Wednesday 31st October 2007.

Dear Minister

Firm Foundations: The Future of Housing in Scotland

Homes for Scotland is the representative body for the private home building industry in Scotland. Homes for Scotland represents the interests of over one hundred companies who provide 95 of every 100 homes built for sale in Scotland and we have a rapidly expanding membership of professional and other service businesses engaged in our industry. We write in response to this afternoon's launch of the Scottish Government's discussion paper on the future of housing in Scotland, specifically to congratulate you on the foresight and ambition that it expresses for the future development of new housing supply in Scotland.

Homes for Scotland wholeheartedly agrees with the principle that good quality affordable housing, provided in places that people want to live, is fundamental to our wellbeing and success as individuals, as families and vibrant communities.

We applaud your consultation on proposals to dramatically improve Scotland's supply of mainstream housing in ways which reflect the real aspiration and demand for housing in the market place in which we operate, whilst simultaneously sustaining strong existing communities across Scotland.

We look forward to working with the Scottish Government, Local Authorities and Registered Social landlords to develop new strategies to increase the supply of land and the availability of housing in all tenures as signaled within the Consultation Document.

The important emphasis placed on strategic investment in sustainably growing existing, together with entirely new settlements is noted. However, as highlighted within the consultation, we feel strongly that this must be backed up with coordinated policies and delivery networks for wider public services and assets.

The organisations that we represent therefore stand ready, able and willing to rise to the challenge of delivering at least 35,000 new homes per annum by the middle of the next decade. We feel confident that this target is achievable and we will work to find ways to exceed it wherever possible. In the meantime, we will play an active part in the consultation response process you have announced. We believe these actions together with our ongoing contributions to the work and activities of the Housing Supply Task Force, will ensure that the home building industry is appropriately positioned to respond to the lead set out in the document you have released today.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Fair", written over a horizontal line.

Jonathan Fair
Chief Executive