



PRESS RELEASE

17TH May 2007

HOUSEBUILDERS CONCERNED AT EXECUTIVE SHAKE-UP

Homes for Scotland, the body representing the housebuilding industry in Scotland has expressed concern at the nature and scope of the shake-up announced in ministerial responsibilities and Scottish Executive Departments.

Bruce Black, Homes for Scotland Executive Director, said:

“We have consistently been calling for a more co-ordinated and targeted approach to the planning and delivery of the new homes and other forms of development that Scotland urgently needs. We need to be reassured that the new arrangements, which see housing and planning separated at both ministerial and departmental levels, will not make matters worse rather than better. There is a real worry that the supply of new homes, which everyone agrees needs to be stepped up, has been given a very low policy and operational priority in the new structure. I will be asking for early discussions with the Ministers concerned.”

Ends

For further information please contact:

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Notes to the Editor:

1. Homes for Scotland represents the country's home building industry which:
 - is the largest source of private investment in Scotland
 - contributes £5bn to the economy annually
 - builds 25,000 new homes per annum
 - employs more than 110,000 people
 - is the largest user of the planning system in Scotland