



**PRESS RELEASE**

**18 November 2005**

**WATER CONSULTATION COMPLICATED AND CONTRADICTIONARY**  
***House builders worry over extent to which development constraints will be overcome***

Proposals and draft regulations which will change the way that Scottish Water contributes to the cost of new connections to its water and sewerage networks are complicated, contradictory and do not meet stated Ministerial objectives and directions.

That is the view of house building industry body Homes for Scotland in its response to the Scottish Executive's consultation "Connecting to the System".

Whilst the organisation, which represents companies building 95% of new homes in Scotland, has welcomed the policy priority being given by Ministers to the widespread and damaging problem of development constraints, it is worried about the extent to which the proposals in the consultation paper will achieve this.

Executive Director Bruce Black said:

"Ministers have stated that Scottish Water will be fully funded to provide all of the 'strategic capacity' needed to remove development constraints by 2014 and that Scottish Water is to make this the highest priority for capital expenditure. But we do not believe that this is reflected in the consultation paper.

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To look to the development industry to provide strategic infrastructure such as trunk sewers and trunk water mains as a matter of course is quite unrealistic and contrary to logic and to the spirit and intent of the statutory role of Scottish Water.

There are obvious implications for the cost of development and for the affordability of new homes, a situation made worse by the absence in the paper of any meaningful proposals to allow developers to provide and retain infrastructure capacity ahead of need.”

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**Notes to editors:**

Homes for Scotland ([www.homesforscotland.com](http://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 industry is the largest user of the country’s planning system and the largest source of private investment in the Scottish economy contributing nearly £5 billion and employing over 110,000 people.