



PRESS RELEASE

27 August 2004

**HOUSE BUILDERS RENEW CALL FOR MORE LAND
AS PROPERTY PRICES CONTINUE TO RISE**

Following publication of the latest property price information from the Registers of Scotland which shows house prices continuing to rise¹, Homes for Scotland, the organisation representing the country's home building industry, renewed its call for the release of more land for housing.

Executive Director Bruce Black said: "It is our view that house price inflation can only be tackled by increasing the supply of housing. Even the Scottish Executive now believes that up to 7500 additional new houses a year may be required to bring down house price inflation - an increase of over 30% on current levels². To do this effectively, we need a land supply which is capable of meeting demand in full and delivering the new homes people need. This requires urgent improvement to the planning system allied to the commitment of Ministers to work with the industry to solve the problem."

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Notes to editors:

1. The average price for a residential property in Scotland increased again in the last quarter (April to June) and is now £108,238, according to figures released today by Registers of Scotland. The increase is a rise of 19.3 per cent from the same quarter last year and an increase of 1.2 per cent on the previous quarter.

Press release available on Scottish Executive website at:
www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2004/08/27094109

2. Review of the Evidence on the Scottish Housing Market (paragraph 45) published by the Scottish Executive on 7 July.

See www.scotland.gov.uk/about/DD/H3/00019504/page1263274333.pdf for further details.

3. 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.