



**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **HOUSE BUILDING INDUSTRY SLAMS PLANNING PERFORMANCE IN THE NORTH EAST**

Reacting to planning authority performance data prepared for the Scottish Parliament's Finance Committee, the Scottish house building industry today slammed the abysmal records of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils and called for an urgent overhaul of the planning system in Scotland.

The Scottish Executive expects local authorities to decide on major residential planning applications within four months but latest figures show that Aberdeenshire processed only 38% whilst Aberdeen City managed even less at 24%.

Allan Lundmark, Director of Planning at Homes for Scotland, the organisation that represents companies building over 90% of the country's new homes, described the situation as "scandalous at a time when people are queuing up to buy new houses and problems of affordability are escalating".

He also bitterly condemned Scottish Executive proposals to introduce a Third Party Right of Appeal, noting that, on the basis of the above figures, it would serve only to grind the current planning system to a virtual halt and ensure investment in Scotland was frustrated even further.

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“If Scotland is to prosper it needs a planning system that encourages and facilitates investment to enhance the social, economic and environmental well-being of our communities. These figures show that Councillors are presiding over a planning system that keeps investment locked up in filing cabinets.”

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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 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.