

Introductory Statement – Local Government & Communities Committee,

Evidence Session.

Homes for Scotland, 14th November 2007.

Good morning Committee members, fellow panel attendees' and wider observers.

Thank you for the invitation to address the Committee this morning, I would like to kick off my contribution by saying a few key words of introduction and background to our organization, that I hope will provide relevant context to our discussions.

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 and fifteen core homebuilder and developer organizations, as well as with over eighty additional associated service and supply companies.

Together our membership provides approx. 95 of every 100 new homes built for sale in Scotland each year. Homes for sale currently account for 80% of all new homes constructed in Scotland and residential development is the largest source of private investment in our country, full stop.

We have a rapidly expanding membership of professional and other service businesses engaged in our industry, which contributes £5bn annually to the economy and employs more than 110,000 people directly and indirectly.

Homes for Scotland has been established to represent and speak for the home building industry. We aim to improve the quality of living in Scotland by providing this and future generations with modern homes, in the places people want to live. We are a modern influencing body, challenging where necessary on behalf of members' rights and interests, whilst engaging constructively with decision-makers and influencers.

Satisfying the diverse needs and expectations of its members is the key driver for Homes for Scotland, in addition to growing respect and trust for the organisation and for the industry by being knowledgeable, influential and proactive in promoting and protecting home builders' interests.

Homes for Scotland publicises, stimulates and encourages excellence in all the industry does in Scotland.

It is important to note therefore that Homes for Scotland is not a regulatory body, industry policeman or public policy enforcer. Our membership join the organisation on a voluntary basis, working with us and supporting our activities in a wide variety of ways.

Much of this activity, together with broader information on our members and individual secretariat team, is available via our website, at :- www.homesforscotland.com

In relation to current housing development activities, our views in this field are clearly influenced by the concerns, needs, desires and aspirations of our membership.

However, on a wider basis we are delighted to be working with the Scottish Government within the Housing Supply Task Force and look forward to continuing to contribute to its ongoing programme of work in the months ahead.

If any of the points raised within this introduction require clarification or further information to aid your understanding we will be more than happy to assist. Therefore, please direct any future queries or correspondence out with this Evidence Session to myself at our Edinburgh office address.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Fair', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jonathan Fair

Chief Executive