



PRESS RELEASE

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**SCOTTISH PRIVATE HOUSE BUILDING INDUSTRY LAUNCHES ITS MANIFESTO
AND CALLS FOR AN END TO THE HOUSING SHORTAGE**

Homes for Scotland is calling on prospective parliamentary candidates to help put an end to the Scottish housing shortage. It says that with political will, private housebuilders can build more houses and provide vital infrastructure to meet the needs of constituents in communities across Scotland.

The Homes for Scotland Scottish Parliament Manifesto points to the over-protection of land by planning authorities and highlights the resistance to new development which have created both a shortage of new homes and the affordability crisis that has followed. This compares starkly with attitudes south of the border where the delivery of new homes is being proactively promoted by Westminster.

Bruce Black, Executive Director of Homes for Scotland said: "We are not permitted to build enough new homes in this country, and considerably less than many other of our European neighbours who are successfully planning for growth. The Republic of Ireland delivers some 75,000 new homes per year, three times more than Scotland which has a greater population.

"The aspiration of Scots to own their own homes continues to rise with two thirds of dwellings now being owner-occupied, a massive increase of over 30% since 1981. However, young people, in particular, are struggling to gain a foothold on the housing ladder due to escalating house prices.

More...



“We would urge the Scottish Executive to draw on its own research from 2004 which showed that a substantial increase in building rates is needed in order to stabilise house prices.

“We are calling on candidates to support an industry that, as a major employer, is directly and indirectly responsible for the livelihood of more than 110,000 families in Scotland. The home building industry is the largest source of private investment in this country, contributing around £5bn annually to the Scottish economy and as such should be nurtured and supported. In addition to building much needed homes, the industry also provides important amenities such as schools, shops and health and leisure facilities for Scotland’s local communities.

“The home building industry recognises the wish of government to be outward-looking, confident and to deliver real, sustainable improvements in the quality of life. We too are committed to improving living in Scotland. As a major industry we have a key part to play in creating a vibrant successful Scotland and we take our responsibilities seriously. That is why we are working hard to tackle a whole range of issues such as customer service, sustainability and the design/place-making agenda.

“No administration can deliver on wider agendas – from new talent to social inclusion – without embracing and engaging meaningfully and realistically with the industry that will be housing the people of Scotland. The home building industry is ready and willing to work with the Scottish Executive, whatever its colour after the elections on 3rd May, on the issues that will shape the country. In particular it looks forward to helping the Executive to meet people’s aspirations to own a high quality home of their own in a place they want to live”.

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improving living in scotland



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