



Press Release

18 May, 2006

COMPANIES EXPRESS CONCERNS ON POLICY IN SURVEY OF HOUSE BUILDING SECTOR

House builders have indicated a number of major concerns in a survey of Homes for Scotland members compiled by law firm McGrigors. Homes for Scotland's member companies build 94% of all houses in Scotland and contribute some £4bn annually to the Scottish economy.

Their member companies are gathered today for the McGrigors sponsored annual lunch at the Sheraton Grand Hotel, Edinburgh, in the company of Malcolm Chisholm, MSP, Minister for Communities.

The survey of housebuilders and their professional advisers found that:

- 98% agreed that changes in the structure and operation of Scottish Water and other utilities are needed
- 98% believed that the economic and social importance of the housebuilding industry is not fully appreciated by politicians and the media
- almost 90% of respondents agreed that the provision of new affordable housing is not being well planned and delivered
- 92% agreed that the Scottish Executive is not providing sufficient investment and incentives for the regeneration of Scotland's communities, while 90% agreed that the Scottish Executive did not always appear supportive of new housing development

In contrast the results indicated overall support of the Planning Bill, which got stage one approval last week, with a large majority of respondents saying they agreed that the bill in its current form would represent a significant step forward for development in Scotland.

On market growth, respondents were positive with 88% agreeing that the Scottish housing market would offer significant opportunities for growth over the next two years and 90% agreeing that the market for new homes would remain strong and prices stable.

John Curran, Real Estate partner at McGrigors, said:

"The results of our survey identify some important issues that need to be resolved. The industry is working hard to deliver good quality housing to the market and is responding positively to the pressure for affordable housing. This survey shows that it is asking for greater co-operation and clarity from Government in order to make confident progress toward mutually beneficial long-term goals for society at large and the industry itself. McGrigors looks forward to playing a continuing role in this important dialogue."

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Notes to Editor:

1. McGrigors is a leading law firm with offices in London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, Aberdeen, Falkland Islands and a 50% stake in an office in Baku. With 75 partners and more than 350 lawyers across the UK and overseas, McGrigors is well placed to advise clients, including national and multinational organisations in the private and public sectors, on a wide variety of commercial issues. McGrigors had turnover in excess of £45m in 2005, and is one of the UK's top 40 legal firms.
2. **Survey methodology.** The survey was conducted online among the members of Homes for Scotland. Where the phrase "agreed" is used in this press release, it includes those members who "agreed slightly" or "agreed strongly" with statements made in the survey questionnaire.

For further information, please contact:

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to access the full survey results, please visit <http://www.mcgrigors-homesforscotland.com/>
[username: admin / password: welcome]