



PRESS RELEASE

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HOUSE BUILDERS CALL FOR RADICAL CHANGE IN ATTITUDE

Industry needs to be encouraged if Scotland is to achieve economic growth and bolster population

A radical change in attitude to the private housing sector is required if Scotland is to fulfil its true potential and achieve objectives of economic growth and arresting population decline. That was the message from senior industry figures today as they met with over 30 MSPs to discuss the many issues confronting an industry that contributes some £5bn to the Scottish economy and employs more than 110,000 people.

Representing companies that build 95% of all new homes in Scotland, Homes for Scotland Chairman Colin Cumberland said:

“The Scottish Executive cannot deliver its wider agendas, from new talent to social inclusion, without embracing and engaging meaningfully and realistically with the private house building industry. Ministers and MSPs alike need to have the courage to plan for growth and development and not for decline if Scotland is to be the dynamic, desirable country we all want it to be.

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“But, the Executive, in its recent policy statement ‘Homes for Scotland’s People’ remains focused on the provision of social housing and appears to have seriously underestimated Scotland’s real housing needs at 15,000 new homes per annum when we are already building a quite inadequate 24,000. This completely fails to recognise that the industry builds to meet people’s legitimate aspirations and not simply for new household formation. More affordability in the market can only come through increased supply.”

“We can meet Scotland’s housing needs if we are allowed and encouraged to do so, for instance like our counterparts in Ireland who build three times as many new homes as we do for a population four-fifths the size.”

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Notes to editors:

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 95% of all new homes in Scotland. The industry contributes over £4.8 billion to the economy and employs more than 110,000 people.