



PRESS RELEASE

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NEW BUILD HOUSING MARKET REMAINS BUOYANT

In light of today's interest rate rise by the Bank of England and with wide ranging views from banks, lenders and economists on what is or isn't happening to house prices, Scotland's house builders confirmed that the new home market remains buoyant with many companies' order books continuing to exceed production.

Homes for Scotland, the industry body which represents companies building more than 90% of the country's new homes, says that demand continues to be strong throughout Scotland (particular in and around the cities and across the central belt) and reports that members are increasingly selling new homes before a brick has been laid on them.

Executive Director Bruce Black said: "New build homes still represent a very sound investment choice, especially for young families and first time buyers. They offer the certainty of a fixed price in a market where older properties are continuing to sell for well over the asking price. New homes are more efficient and cheaper to run and also bring peace of mind in the shape of a 10-year guarantee. Our members believe prices are moderating to more sustainable levels but that the market will remain very active given the current undersupply of new housing in Scotland to meet the demand that we know is there. We need urgent improvements to the planning system to allow us to increase the supply."

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Note 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 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.

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