



PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 8th February 2006: For Immediate Release

HOMES FOR SCOTLAND CONDEMNS HOUSING SHORTAGE IN NORTH EAST

Homes for Scotland Planning Director today condemned as 'outrageous' the idea that people are forced to spend the night in sub-zero temperatures in order to simply reserve a house. Allan Lundmark of the house building industry's representative body said: "This is a direct result of the failure of the planning system to allocate enough land for residential development".

He hit back at comments in recent news reports that there is "plenty of new-build going on". He said: "I am astonished to hear John MacRae of the Aberdeen Solicitor's Property Centre say that the answer is not to release more land. The Bett Homes example at Elrick demonstrates that there is a dire local need for quality new homes. John MacRae is absolutely right when he says that the problem with supply is with starter flats for youngsters and first time buyers, however there is a critical lack of housing at all levels of the market. All the evidence shows that there is insufficient land in the Aberdeen market area to meet the needs of local people, whether these are first time buyers or families with young children. We are still working with an outdated plan that was drawn up in the early 90's and we need the new local plan brought forward as a matter of urgency.

"Over-protection of land and resistance to new development has created both a shortage of new homes and an affordability crisis. We are not building enough homes to meet demand and prices are escalating as a result. Scotland has one of the lowest new build rates in Europe and nowhere is this more apparent than in the North East."

Ends



For further information please contact:

Beth Hocking or Jennifer Kennedy, Homes for Scotland. Tel: 0131 455 8350

Notes to the Editor:

1. Homes for Scotland (www.homesforscotland.com) represents the country's home building industry which:
 - is the largest source of private investment in Scotland
 - contributes £5bn to the economy annually
 - employs more than 110,000 people
 - builds 25,000 new homes per annum
 - is the largest user of the planning system in Scotland