



PRESS RELEASE

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WATER CONSULTATION “BIASED” SAY HOUSE BUILDERS

Homes for Scotland, the organisation representing the house building industry in Scotland, is complaining about bias in the Scottish Executive’s consultation on future expenditure by Scottish Water.

Homes for Scotland Executive Director Bruce Black said:

“We are deeply dismayed at the growing evidence that the Executive is not being even-handed in its approach to so-called open consultation about the future investment programmes of Scottish Water. We have consultation papers that seem to be designed to emphasise the unacceptable cost to customers of providing the much-needed investment in our water and drainage infrastructure.

We have had the Minister, Ross Finnie, prejudging consultation by emphasising that developers will need to bear the cost of new infrastructure in future. And now we have been refused the opportunity to put our case at an Executive-sponsored conference on paying for water services.

He continued:

“We are customers too, likely to be asked by the Minister to contribute £500m to the cost of infrastructure in the next 10 years, and the case for further investment by Scottish Water needs to be heard. Little wonder the development industry is concerned. At present every part of Scotland is affected by inadequate water and drainage infrastructure. Whole communities are being blocked off from new development of any kind, not just houses.

We need to be looking at the consequences of not investing, and looking at new ways of funding this work if need be, not presenting it as a stark choice between investment and higher water charges. Why should today’s developers and customers pay for the services and infrastructure tomorrow’s customers will use?”

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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.