



PRESS RELEASE

30 June 2005

**HOUSE BUILDERS WELCOME MINISTER'S ASSURANCES
ON WATER FUNDING**

Representatives of Homes for Scotland, whose member companies build 95% of all new homes in Scotland, have met with new Environment Minister Rhona Brankin to discuss continuing concerns over Scottish Water's funding to service new development.

Homes for Scotland Executive Director Bruce Black said:

"We were delighted that the Minister held this meeting as her first engagement under her new portfolio. Together with many other private and public sector interests we have been arguing strongly that Scottish Water was not being given the necessary funds, or ministerial policy direction, to cope with the needs of new development of all types in Scotland. This has led to increasing frustration both for developers and for local authorities and communities.

"The Minister reaffirmed that for the period 2006-2014 new priorities and adequate funding would be made available to Scottish Water to ensure that all new development can go ahead and the development constraints problem is consigned to history. She would wish to see Scottish Water, SEPA, local planning authorities and the development industry work closely to this end."

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Black continued:

“These assurances are very welcome and our objective now is to see them carried through. There are still a number of issues to be resolved in relation to the programming and prioritisation of work but we will be looking for early discussions with all of the other parties involved. This problem need not have arisen in the first place but it is welcome that solving it is at the top of the Minister’s agenda.”

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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.