RESPONSE TO THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT FINANCE COMMITTEE CALL FOR EVIDENCE ON THE SCOTTISH FUTURES TRUST

29 SEPTEMBER 2015
Homes for Scotland is **the** voice of the home building industry.

With a membership of some 200 organisations together providing 95% of new homes built for sale in Scotland each year as well as a significant proportion of affordable housing, we are committed to improving the quality of living in Scotland by providing this and future generations with warm, sustainable homes in places people want to live.

Visit [www.homesforscotland.com](http://www.homesforscotland.com) for further information and follow us on twitter @H_F_S
1. **Introduction**

1.1 Homes for Scotland (HFS) welcomes the opportunity to offer the Finance Committee evidence to support its enquiry. This response focuses on the role that the SFT has played in developing the National Housing Trust initiative and the work of the Asset Management team to support the marketing of former NHS sites.

2. **The Role of SFT**

2.1 The SFT’s role in working with home builders, local authorities and Scottish Government to shape the National Housing Trust initiative clearly demonstrated its ability to foster innovation, encourage collaboration and deliver value for money to the public purse. Since the initiative was launched in 2011 a number of Homes for Scotland members, of varying sizes, have been involved in the delivery of NHT homes throughout much of Scotland. The Scottish Government recently announced that more than 1,000 new homes have been delivered through the initiative and that it is on track to deliver more than 2,000 homes in total.

2.2 NHT has provided an important source of activity and support for the companies involved, particularly during the downturn, enabling them to protect jobs and maintain activity. In addition it has helped to foster effective co-operation and joint working between the public and private sectors.

2.3 In addition to this, a number of our member companies have benefitted from the marketing of former NHS sites, which we understand has been facilitated and supported by the Asset Management team at SFT.

2.4 Coming out of a recession, it is crucial that developers can start to grow their pipeline of sites. The pre-marketing work carried out by the SFT team has enabled our home builder members to submit strong offers for these sites, with a level of certainty previously not provided. Our member companies look forward to the opportunity to bid for further sites as they are released to the market.

2.5 A number of our associate member companies have also benefitted from this workstream, with planning consultants, marketing agents and legal firms all benefitting from the commercial activity, which consequent benefits for the Scottish economy.

2.6 Homes for Scotland and our members look forward to continuing to work with the SFT to develop innovative and effective approaches to support the delivery of much needed new housing across Scotland.