In response to the above call for evidence, I am writing this short note in my capacity as Chair of the Scottish Government Review of Scottish Public Sector Procurement in Construction.

We reported on the Review in October 2013 (http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/10/2688) and the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) were very helpful in providing input to the review.

As part of the Review we visited all five of the hubCos which are supported by the SFT and in each of which it holds a 10% stake. Some concerns were expressed to the review about aspects of the operation of the hubCos and these are set out in the report.

In May 2014, the Scottish Government announced that it had endorsed the report’s recommendations and had tasked the Scottish Procurement and Commercial Directorate and the SFT with their adoption. The SFT has been playing a leading role in rolling out the delivery aspects of the initiatives set out in the report. Many of these initiatives are relevant to the areas of interest set out in the call for evidence. The Construction Reform Delivery Group is overseeing the implementation of the recommendations in the report (including those relating to hubCos) and, as a member of that group, I have an opportunity to see how the recommendations are being actioned. I believe that good progress is being made and that the reforms being introduced will provide better value for money for the public sector and aid the sustainability of the construction sector which is vitally important to the economy of Scotland.

Robin Crawford