Convener

I just wanted to write to you to express my concern and frustration surrounding last week’s evidence session.

I was somewhat surprised that the line of questioning throughout the session was focussed on the issues that had been raised by constituents in the previous, private, session.

I recognise that they have a right to be heard, but I would have thought that the representatives of the associations called to give evidence should have been forewarned that this was going to be the line of enquiry.

I had prepared for and was expecting to give evidence on the systemic failures of local government to enable the delivery of much needed homes.

Topics that I hoped we would discuss include:

- The overall building standards service;
- The quality and quantity of existing verifiers, and alternative solutions;
- The increase in building warrant fees;
- The disconnect between planning, building control and roads depts.;
- The delays in the system and other more strategic topics.

I would be interested to know if there will be further evidence sessions or opportunities to discuss this at any stage in the future.

Should it be of interest to your committee, HFS would be willing to facilitate site visits with some of our member companies, to give you all an opportunity to see for yourselves the quality of new homes, and give you the chance to discuss the real challenges of bringing forward developments at this present time with those on the front line.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Kind regards

Nicola Barclay
Chief Executive
Homes for Scotland