

Housebuilders and government confident in industry

Sales and reservations have not been affected by the EU referendum, according to the Home Builders Federation and leading housebuilders.

At a meeting yesterday (June 30) with communities secretary Greg Clark and housing and planning minister Brandon Lewis, HBF members reaffirmed their commitment to upping supply and increasing the number of new home owners.

Clark stated that housing was a top priority for the government and reiterated the government's ambition to build "1 million more homes". Its ambition is supported by a £20 billion housing package announced at the time of the Spending Review and government backed initiatives, including Help to Buy and shared ownership which have helped more than 309,000 home owners since 2010.

Both the government and housebuilders in attendance spoke of their confidence in the strength of the housing market, HBF said, with the continuing strong demand for housing. And the government and HBF agreed to continue to work together over the coming weeks "to ensure shared ambitions are met".

The communities secretary said: "The action we have taken over the last six years to get the country building again has put the industry in a position of strength. We have doubled investment in housing and set out the largest affordable house building program since the 1970s.

"The need for new homes continues as does the Government's commitment to getting them built and extending home ownership to anyone that aspires to own a home of their own."

Peter Andrew, HBF's deputy chairman, said: "We were very pleased to hear the Secretary of State reaffirm the Government's commitment to increasing housing supply. We welcome his reiteration of support for successful programmes like the Help to Buy equity loan scheme which is underpinning demand and helping tens of thousands of buyers each year to take their first steps on the housing ladder.

"Housebuilders remain confident in the underlying level of demand for housing and will continue to deliver the homes the country needs."

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