

PRESS STATEMENT FROM THE THB
London, England, 2 February 2005

THB responds to Code for Sustainable Buildings

The THB today welcomes the announcement by the Deputy Prime Minister about the Code for Sustainable Buildings, and pledges to cooperate with the code development process through to 2006.

Chairman Martin Clarke said “ we welcome the clear statement that the code will be performance-based and not prescriptive – for too long we have put up with the anti-competitive blacklisting of masonry construction by elements within the social housing movement under the guise of encouraging so called Modern Methods of Construction which have proven to be so expensive. The tendency to encourage two day construction cycles whilst ignoring durability and whole-life impact will hopefully be consigned to the dustbin”.

He continued “Now we have confidence that we can move to a level playing field that will maximise the number of houses and flats built, whilst ensuring adequate minimum durability of well over 100 years and minimising environmental impact right through the process. We hope that the BRE BREEAM and ECOhomes schemes will be opened up to scrutiny during the codes development”.

“We also now look forward to being judged alongside other methods of construction on the important criteria of fire performance, health issues and performance in flooding where the bouncebackability of masonry methods is such a vital plus point.”

- ENDS –

Note to Editors: The THB (Traditional Housing Bureau) is a pressure group dedicated to promoting the benefits of Modern Masonry Construction methods. More information on the organisation can be viewed at www.housebuilder.org.uk.

For any further information, including interviews with Martin Clarke, please contact Anna Hern at CIB Public Relations on 01372 371800, e-mail annah@cibcommunications.co.uk