

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Sustainable and Affordable: The £60,000 Question**

Competition to build the '£60,000 house', launched by John Prescott's 'Homes for All' strategy, is a test already being achieved by brick and block construction, says the Traditional Housing Bureau.

The claim is backed up by national construction and development company Wates, who has recently announced it is currently working on dwellings within the specified £60,000 cost using brick and block masonry construction. Principal design manager for social housing regeneration Andrew Lock comments: "We have many years' historical data on building with masonry construction, well established links with the supply chain and related trades, so we know we can commit to consistency with this method."

Martin Clarke, Chairman of the THB, comments: "We welcome the Government's competition to build a good quality home for a construction cost of £60,000 as a great opportunity to demonstrate masonry construction is cost-effective and sustainable."

"Sustainability should surely be a long term, holistic resolve, and it is to be hoped that the competition will assess the construction methods proposed on that basis, as well as within the financial parameters. In construction costs alone, there may be a number of solutions to delivering the £60,000 house. But how many of those methods already have the infrastructure, supply chain and trained workforce for building the necessary quantity of good quality, flexible and cost effective homes? Which other construction method offers intrinsic thermal performance, outstanding acoustic performance and is fundamentally fire resistant and flood resilient? Solid, robust masonry homes offer all of these benefits - and can answer the £60,000 question - with a solution that will last for hundreds of years."

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