

News Release – immediate use

## **Latest planning performance figures ‘encouraging’ but decisions ‘still taking far too long’ – SBF**

Leading Scottish construction industry trade body the Scottish Building Federation has commented on the latest annual planning performance statistics for Scotland, published this week by Scotland’s chief statistician.

Scottish Building Federation Managing Director Vaughan Hart said:

“Clearly, it’s encouraging that the average time taken to determine major planning applications in Scotland has reduced over the past 12 months, falling from 33.6 weeks to 32.5 weeks. Then furthermore it is encouraging to see the approval rate was 93.7%. The delegation rate was 95.8%, the highest rate since the start of this data collection in 2012-13.

“However, there is a continued perception that overall, planning authorities are still taking far too long to take a decision on large scale developments of all kinds. It’s an unwelcome additional barrier for the construction industry when building contractors up and down the country are having to wait almost eight months from a planning application being submitted to being able to start work on-site. With so much economic uncertainty around at the current time, streamlining the planning process is one concrete way that government at all levels could be helping to keep the Scottish construction industry ticking.”

**ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors**

1 The latest annual planning performance statistics for Scotland, covering the period 2018-19, were published by Scotland’s chief statistician on Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019: <https://www.gov.scot/news/planning-application-decision-times-published-5/>

2. Founded in 1895, the Scottish Building Federation (SBF) is the lead voice of the construction industry in Scotland, an industry which is the largest source of private investment north of the border and contributes around £10 billion (c.10%) to Scotland’s GDP. The overall aim of the organisation is to ensure that the important contribution of the Scottish construction industry to Scotland’s economy and society is recognised and valued, which it does through working with industry, government and the media, and that industry standards are raised.

3. The SBF promotes the interests of the construction industry to a diverse range of stakeholders and is the leading employers’ federation for the industry, representing hundreds of individual companies from Orkney to the Borders.

4. The SBF provides an exclusive range of invaluable support services to a wide range of member companies, whether these are small single trade firms or major regional and national contractors. The shared objective that all members have in common is their commitment to health and safety, skills and integrity, ensuring the delivery of the highest standards of performance, professionalism and quality within the industry in Scotland.

5. For further information, please contact: