

## **JANUARY DELIVERS SELF BUILD SPEND OVER £25m**

Building a new home seems to be a popular new year's resolution, according to figures released today by the National Self Build & Renovation Centre. Boosted by the Government's recent pledge to make it easier for people to build their own homes, homeowners-turned-homebuilders have been visiting the Centre for information and advice on their new projects in far bigger numbers than this time last year, representing a multi-million pound opportunity for sales of construction materials and products.

The National Centre has seen a significant surge in new visitors with new projects, reporting a 65% year-on-year increase in footfall through its doors in January. New projects registered last month represent a total materials budget of over £25m, and over 2,000 construction jobs. The Centre is now gearing up for more visitors later this month, with the National Self Build & Renovation Show, starting on 25<sup>th</sup> February. The three-day annual event, now in its fourth year, will see thousands of wannabe homebuilders flock to the Centre to get the information, advice, and inspiration they need for their new home improvement, renovation and self build projects.

On 5<sup>th</sup> January, Housing Minister Grant Shapps announced the Government's intention to support and encourage those who want to build their own home, promising to tear down the barriers that currently stand in the way of self builders - including a complex and bureaucratic planning system, regulatory burdens – and tackle the issues in relation to the availability of land and finance.

With the housing market still suffering the impact of the credit crunch and the recession, for many homeowners, building their own home is the best alternative to buying on the open market. Tim Doherty, Managing Director of the Centre explains: "We have had a burgeoning self build sector in this country for the last ten years, with a dedicated supply chain and infrastructure in place to help self builders. The Government's pledge to support seems to have made a difference, and as the policy detail is announced over the next few months, we expect to have a very busy year at the Centre, starting with our Show next week.

"There has always been a significant aspirant self build market in the UK, and we have been seeing increased demand and interest in the self build sector, particularly over the last year. With customer projects representing such a considerable spend in just one month, the sales potential for construction industry suppliers and manufacturers in the self build market is significant, and will also provide thousands more jobs for construction workers and professionals."

**ENDS**

## **Notes to Editors**

BuildStore is at the heart of the UK's self build and renovation sector, with a bespoke end-to-end offering of products and services, specifically designed to help self builders and renovators throughout their projects.

BuildStore's core services include:

- Land finding via PlotSearch, the UK's largest and most accurate online database of building plots, renovations and conversions. There are over 9,000 plots, renovations and conversions available, constantly validated for accuracy and include aerial photography
- Financial Services – BuildStore is the UK's leading provider of tailored self build and renovation mortgages, allowing funds to be released in stages throughout the project giving positive cash flow. Mortgages are sold direct to the public and via intermediaries
- Buying materials - BuildStore's TradeCard provides over 3,000 members with discounts and offers of building materials, plant and tool hire from leading suppliers and builder's merchants, by combining the buying power of the UK's self builders and renovators
- The UK's first and only National Self Build & Renovation Centre, opened in February 2007 in Swindon; an impressive 67,000 sq ft Centre designed to educate, inform and inspire self builders and renovators.

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