

Coronavirus: The role of home building in the economic recovery

Stewart Baseley, Executive Chairman
Home Builders Federation



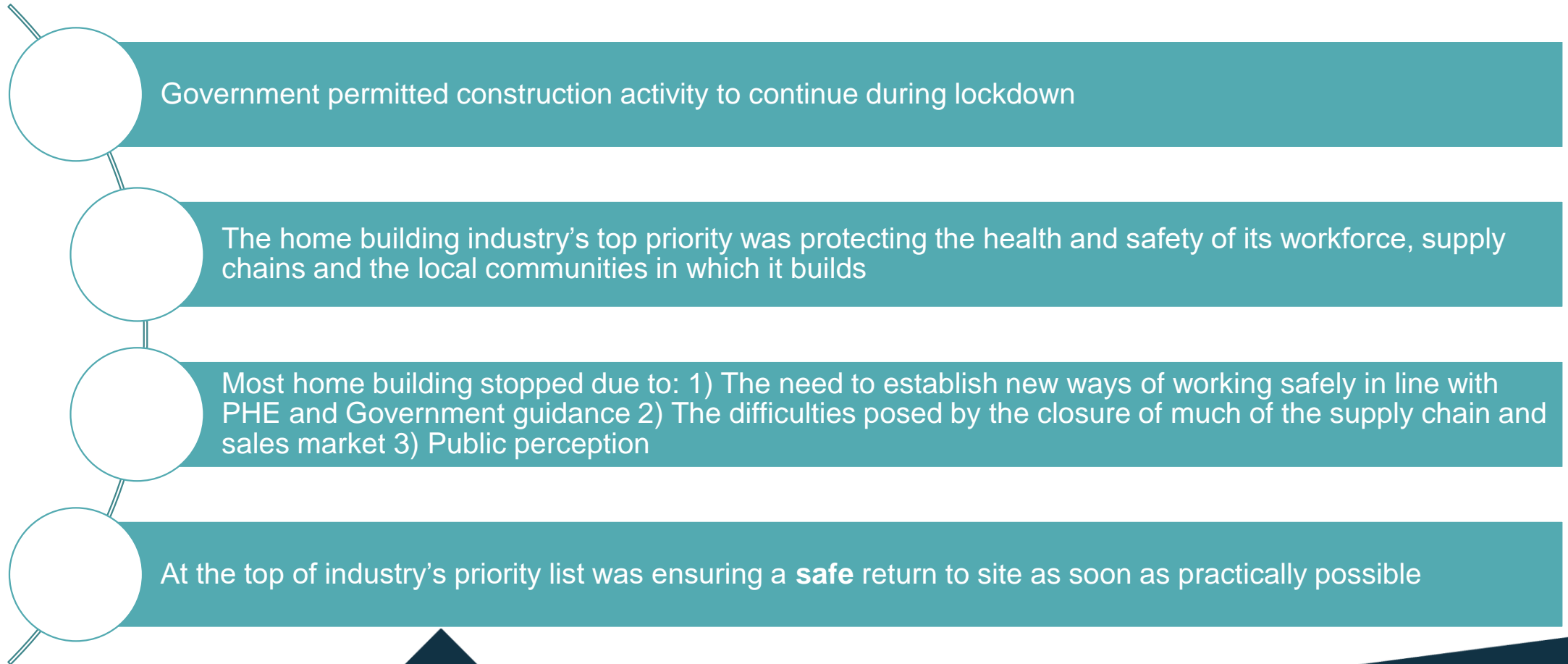
Coronavirus: The initial HBF response

HBF determined three key activities to help steer the home building industry through the crisis:

- **Understanding the views of members through weekly phone calls**
- **Relaying these concerns to Government and other key stakeholders including the Construction Leadership Council**
- **Keeping the industry updated on the latest developments through our new communications channels, the Daily Coronavirus Briefing and the dedicated coronavirus web page on the HBF website**




The initial response of the home building industry



A safe and gradual return to site

- The home building industry has been undertaking a gradual and phased return to work
- This has been supported by the launch of the HBF/MHCLG **Charter for Safe Working Practice** in May
- Its purpose is to ensure development is carried out safely and in accordance with Government and PHE guidelines
- In conjunction with members, we have also produced a guidance document for industry on how to reopen sales offices safely



The image shows the cover of the 'CHARTER FOR SAFE WORKING PRACTICE – COVID-19' document. It features the HBF logo and the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government logo. The text states: 'During the coronavirus pandemic the health and wellbeing of our workforce, visitors to site and the local community is our number one priority.' It explains that home-building has a major role in helping the economy recover and that the Government supports construction activity continuing where it is safe to do so. The document outlines the responsibility to ensure safe site operation and lists measures to be taken, such as working with the workforce, developing safe working practices, and ensuring safety inductions. It also lists requirements for visitors, including registration, staying at home if symptomatic, and following government guidance. A section for 'Our trained site management and sales teams' is also present. The document is signed by Stewart Bailey, Executive Chairman of HBF, and Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing. At the bottom, there are QR codes for further guidance and a note about the HBF's role as the representative body of the home building industry in England and Wales. A banner at the very bottom reads 'STAY ALERT, CONTROL THE VIRUS, SAVE LIVES'.

CHARTER FOR SAFE WORKING PRACTICE – COVID-19

During the coronavirus pandemic the health and wellbeing of our workforce, visitors to site and the local community is our number one priority.

Home-building has a major role to play in helping our economy recover from the impact of coronavirus. The Government is supportive of construction activity continuing **where it is safe to do so**. Home building supports hundreds of thousands of jobs and thousands of businesses. It also provides billions of pounds to improve local infrastructure in the areas where new homes are built.

We all share the responsibility to ensure that this site can operate safely and in accordance with Government advice.

We will do that by:

- ▶ Working with our workforce, subcontractors and suppliers to develop and share detailed safe working practices
- ▶ Only undertaking operations we know can be carried out safely
- ▶ Establishing safe access and egress to the site
- ▶ Providing safe shared facilities
- ▶ Giving all site visitors a safety induction to ensure they fully understand the measures in place on the site to protect them and others
- ▶ Ensuring measures are in place to enable anyone on site to abide by social distancing guidance and taking mitigating action to reduce the risk of transmission where not possible
- ▶ Having clean welfare facilities and hand washing points and sanitisers across the site
- ▶ Developing detailed policies that allow customers to visit sites and view homes safely and in accordance with all social distancing guidelines
- ▶ Communicating with our neighbours so they are aware we are working to Government guidelines
- ▶ Ensuring that compliance with these rules is monitored very closely. **Any person found to be breaking these rules will be removed from site and may not be allowed to return.**

We are asking all visitors to our site to:

- ▶ Register with the site management team upon arrival for a coronavirus briefing
- ▶ Stay at home if they have any coronavirus symptoms or are living with someone who has
- ▶ Apply government guidance for safer travel, including the avoidance of use of public transport where possible
- ▶ Take time to understand and comply with all guidance provided, in particular with regards to social distancing
- ▶ Report any concerns to the site manager/coordinator named below

Our trained site management and sales teams will be able to answer any questions workers and visitors may have.

These rules will be updated according to any changes in Government guidance or Construction Leadership Council Site Operating Procedures.

Stewart Bailey
Executive Chairman HBF

Robert Jenrick
Secretary of State for Housing

Further guidance for site working can be found here:

If you are working on this site, or are a member of the community and have any concerns please contact us in confidence on:

*The Home Builders Federation (HBF) is the representative body of the home building industry in England and Wales.

STAY ALERT, CONTROL THE VIRUS, SAVE LIVES

To download, go to:
www.hbf.co.uk/charter

The role of home building...

...in the economic recovery

Attentions are turning to the recovery phase but it is too soon to tell how the industry will fare in the coming months

However, home building does have the potential to play a vital role in the revival of the economy

The industry supported 800,000 jobs and £42bn of economic activity in 2018-19

A range of measures could be introduced to help the industry to deliver on its potential



Enabling home builders to support the economic recovery

These measures include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Extending the current Help to Buy scheme**
- **Boosting the second hand market**
- **Support for retirement housing**
- **Permitting extant planning permissions to be extended**
- **Improving the availability and terms of SME finance**
- **Homes England acquiring stock for affordable housing**

We are raising these issues with Government directly and through the Construction Leadership Council (CLC) – HBF is leading the CLC's Housing Group, one of four industry groups tasked with looking at the recovery of the construction sector



Looking beyond the pandemic



Environment and
climate change – Future
Homes Standard



Leasehold reform



Industry image



New Homes
Ombudsman



Building safety



Help to Buy



Design



First Homes



Diversity and inclusion



Mental health
awareness



MMC





The voice of the
home building
industry

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