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# Spatial Economics Research Centre

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## House building (again)

A few weeks back, I wrote about the fact that [the most recent housebuilding figures didn't bode well for long term affordability](#). David Orr, the chief executive of the National Housing Federation is set to talk about this today - he suggests that the government target of three million new homes in England by 2020 is "[almost impossible](#)" to meet. To help, they want more spending by government and faster planning decisions.

Its difficult to see how either of either of these measures can make a significant difference. £400m pounds from CLG will help pay for 5,500 homes over the next 18 months. Mr Orr is predicting a shortfall of 1.4m homes ...

Faster planning will help to some extent, but not if planners still end up saying no to housing. As I've [discussed elsewhere](#), addressing such anti-house building sentiment will require more imaginative ways to ensure that communities are actually willing to accept new housing.

[PS: The post that I just referred to was concerned with rural housing. One of the issues that always crops up there is the "problem" of second homes. So, I was interested to see that CLG's latest report on [Housing in England](#) (published yesterday) had some figures on this. In the last decade, the number of second homes increased by roughly 40,000 to 241,000. While this might cause a problem for a small number of selected rural communities its hard to see this as a major issue for housing affordability in the UK as a whole.]

Posted by [Prof Henry G. Overman](#) on [Friday, September 19, 2008](#)

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