

June Love
DSG Secretariat
Dounreay.com
Traill House
7 Odrig Street
Thurso
KW14 7BJ

Your Ref:

Our Ref: AD/LB

Date: 28th January 2010

Dear Mr Milnes,

Caithness and Renewable Energy

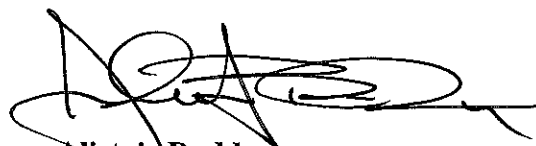
Thank you for your letter of 20th January 2010 regarding the concerns expressed by your group about coverage of the capabilities of Orkney and Nigg in terms of renewable energy development in the media.

I am not sure to which particular media you are referring and of course media coverage is not in the gift of the Council. This matter was raised at the last meeting of the Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership by Rev Ronnie Johnstone and there was a discussion on the issue. This highlighted the need to market the area positively whilst understanding the reasons why there has been media attention on both Orkney, because of the European Marine Energy Centre, and Nigg due to its offshore wind potential.

The Highland Council is committed to ensuring that Caithness and North Sutherland benefit from marine energy developments in the Pentland Firth. We are supportive of the efforts of the local engineering sector to work together to promote their capabilities with the Chamber of Commerce and HIE. We also intend to highlight the opportunities of the Pentland Firth to our Planning Environment and Development committee in March. We are also sure that the announcement of the Crown Estate leases in March will heighten media interest in the area.

The Convener of the Council and the Chairman of the Planning, Environment and Development Committee are both personally committed to development in Caithness and it is important that we all work together to promote the wider area of the Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters and that this should also involve discussions with Orkney Islands Council and HIE.

Yours sincerely



Alistair Dodds
Chief Executive