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Highlands and Islands Enterprise  
 Ionmairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

07 July 2010

Councillor David Flear  
 The Highland Council  
 Glenurquhart Road  
 Inverness IV3 5NX

Dear Councillor Flear

## HIE PRESENTATION TO HIGHLAND COUNCIL

I undertook to respond more fully in writing to the questions you raised following my presentation to the Highland Council on 24 June, and I hope that the comments below are helpful:

### Caithness Regeneration

As Highland Council is a partner in the Caithness Regeneration Partnership, you will be familiar with the plans and vision developed for the area. The additional resources of £12 m was proposed by HIE to stimulate development, and to date approximately £5.5m has been committed. A good example of where this has addressed all of the 3 key points in your questions is the assistance to North Highland College for the development of the Centre for Energy and Environment, which will play an important role in developing the skills and research for renewable energy, which presents substantial opportunities for the area. HIE continues to see the regeneration of Caithness as one of its top priorities, and we look forward to working through the Regeneration Partnership to support businesses and communities in the area.

### HM Prison, Inverness

We recognise the importance of finding the appropriate solution for HMP in Inverness. We have recently written to the Scottish Prison Service, assuring them that we are keen to work proactively with them, and Highland Council, to find an appropriate location.

### Scrabster Harbour

Our Caithness team has been working very closely with the Scrabster Harbour Authority on this project, and we fully recognise the importance of the development to the area, and for the future opportunities in renewable energy. The funding package is complex, and I understand that the Harbour Authority has not yet managed to satisfy the requirements of all the funders to take forward their applications for assistance. HIE will continue to support Scrabster in unlocking this funding, as well as undertaking due diligence for investment support from our funds. A very useful meeting was held on 5 July, chaired by Enterprise Minister Jim Mather, bringing together many of the key funders who endorsed their support for the project.

Yours sincerely

William Roe  
 Chair