



Sir Stuart Hampson  
Chairman  
The Crown Estate  
6 Bell's Brae  
Edinburgh  
EH4 3BJ

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### **CROWN ESTATE WAVE AND TIDAL PROJECT MANAGER**

I understand from colleagues in Caithness that you are to lose the services of Duncan Mackay, the Crown Estate's Wave and Tidal Project Manager, who is based in Thurso. This post has been of significant value to the successful delivery of the Round 1 Pentland Firth leasing programme, and I would like to express the thanks of the partners in CNSRP for the contribution made by Duncan to the area's economic transition process.

It would be very helpful to know how The Crown Estate plans to maintain this valuable "on the ground" management of its role in the development of the Pentland Firth's wave and tidal industry. At such a critical time for the industry, and at such a key point in this area's economic transition, the partners in CNSRP feel it is vital that there is a continuing positive presence from The Crown Estate based in Caithness.

I know that Duncan's combination of local knowledge and understanding of the marine energy industry have been invaluable to the Partnership in making progress towards achieving some of its key priorities. The way the Partnership has evolved over the last three years has been through close working relationships between key organisations. The post of Wave and Tidal Project Manager has, for example, been important in starting to build greater understanding of the key issues among members of our Advisory Board (the Partnership's stakeholder representatives). We therefore feel it is vital that the Crown Estate both continues to devote resource to this local post and seriously considers increasing locally-based staff resources in Caithness so that we can maintain and build upon what has been an integral part of the Partnership's success to date.

I would be grateful for your views on this.

Sir Anthony Cleaver  
Chairman