



29<sup>th</sup> November 2011  
Ref: DSG(2011)C275

Mr Roger Bright CBE  
Chief Executive  
16 New Burlington Place  
LONDON, W1S 2HX

**Please respond to:**

**June Love**  
**DSG Secretariat**  
**Dounreay.com**  
**Traill House**  
**7 Orlig Street**  
**Thurso, Caithness, KW14 7BJ**

**Tel: 01847 804612**  
**Fax: 01847 804615**  
**Email: [info@dounreaystakeholdergroup.org](mailto:info@dounreaystakeholdergroup.org)**

Dear Sir

With reference to our letter of 1st November (DSG(2011)C259 refers). Representatives of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group attended The Crown Estate's stakeholder workshop on the Pentland Firth and Orkney waters (Wave and tidal energy) on the 28th November.

We heard some really good presentations and the over-riding desire to ensure socio economic benefit to the local areas. It was therefore disappointing to hear the explanation from John Callaghan of The Crown Estate that the decision had been taken to replace the Wave and Tidal Project Manager's post which was previously based in Thurso with a new post based in Edinburgh. While we understand your reasons we feel that if The Crown Estate had replaced the vacant post in Caithness this would have sent out a strong message to developers and could have acted as the catalyst for others to follow and open up offices in Caithness which would have signalled a strong message to the area of the emerging opportunities.

Indeed several of the developers present at the Thurso event indicated that they would be opening offices in the north as their projects came forward. However, we feel your decision to base the post in Edinburgh does not encourage such moves. Our area boasts an airport which has daily connections to Aberdeen and Edinburgh (and onwards) to London as well as the provision of videoconferencing, teleconferencing and IT connectivity which could have been utilised to mitigate any sense of "remoteness". The previous postholder, Duncan Mackay, seemed to achieve a sensible balance between travel and local work.

Given that you have already appointed someone based in Edinburgh we would be interested in knowing when this person will be visiting Caithness and the likely frequency of his visits to Caithness in the future.

Further, in your reply dated 3rd August 2011 to the Dounreay Stakeholder Group you copied Sir Stuart Hampson's letter (dated 6th July) to Sir Anthony Cleaver, the chairman of the Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership.

In that letter it is stated that by the end of July The Crown Estate - with the agreement of its partners on the Pentland Firth Coordination Committee - expected that "a review should be undertaken of how local stakeholder engagement for the programme can best be delivered...if the conclusion supports the establishment of a new local position to provide support in this area The Crown Estate will be ready alongside the other PFCC partners to share the funding of this position."

We heard at your Thurso event that the Pentland Firth Coordination Committee is to be subsumed within a new group - The PFOW Leadership Forum - but at no point since the end of July has any outcome from the expected review been communicated to local stakeholders, leading to an increasing sense of frustration with Crown Estate. Are you now in a position to confirm that the review has taken place, and that firm conclusions on the future shape of local stakeholder engagement have been reached?

Yours sincerely

*Sent via email without signature*

**Derrick Milnes**  
**DSG Socio Economic Sub Group Chairman**

cc. DSG members  
CNSRP Programme Manager - for Executive Board  
Stuart Black, Highland Council  
Caithness Chamber of Commerce  
John Thurso, MP  
Rob Gibson, MSP