



Please respond to:

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Ref: DSG(2012)C043

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MOD Ministerial Correspondence Unit
5th Floor, Zone A
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Dear Sir/Madam

FUTURE OF THE MOD VULCAN SITE, CAITHNESS

I am writing to you, on behalf of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group which is an independent body of over 20 community organisations overseeing the operations of the Dounreay site and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).

As part of our group the Commander at Vulcan regularly attends and provides updates on the operational activities of Vulcan.

For over a year now we have been told that the future of Vulcan is undecided. It is clear that the prototyping of the submarines will come to an end and that following defuelling of the reactor a decision on the long term future of the site will be decided.

Our community is already losing a valuable asset when Dounreay reaches its interim end state in 2023 and we are writing to ask when our community will get to see sight of the options available for the Vulcan site moving into the future.

This is of great importance to us – as it currently stands with the closure of the Dounreay site the area will need to replace about 2000 jobs and the numbers will rise if the future of Vulcan is to decommission and close.

While the Commander based at Vulcan has been helpful in responding to questions as they are raised through our sub group meetings he does not have the full facts and therefore an action was placed on me to write to you to ask for clarity around the following questions:

- At what stage will MOD engage with the local community on the options for the future of the Vulcan site,
- does MOD see a continuing future for the site, and

- if there is no future for the Vulcan site is it the intention to fully decommission the site to its end state.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely

June Love.

FP **Bob Earnshaw**
DSG Chairman

cc. John Thurso, MP
Rob Gibson, MSP