

Please respond to:

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1st May 2014

Commodore JR Corderoy
Royal Navy
Defence Equipment and Support
Nuclear Propulsion Project Team
Ash 3a #3301
MOD Abbey Wood
BRISTOL, BS34 8JH

Dear Commodore Corderoy

Thank you for your letter of 6th March providing an explanation of the statement that had been made in the House of Commons by The Right Honourable Philip Hammond MP, Secretary of State for Defence, concerning the Vulcan NRTE site and the reactor core that is currently undergoing testing.

I am sure you have been fully briefed on the discussion that ensued at the Dounreay Stakeholder Group on the 12th March 2014. At that meeting, as chairman, I took an action to consider how the DSG could work with MOD/Vulcan to ensure better engagement in the future which, in turn, ensures that MOD can rebuild the trust which has been lost in our community.

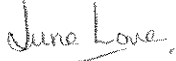
In your letter you state that the DSG has been an important means for you to communicate with the local community and that you value the trust and dialogue that exists between us. I do have to say that the disappointment of DSG members in being informed of the incident in question, which happened in 2012, destroyed some of that trust your colleagues in Vulcan had worked hard to build up and we will need to ensure that there is a clear way forward in engaging with the DSG to allow that the trust to be fully restored.

I do have to re-iterate, however, that we do not consider the personnel who work at the Vulcan site responsible for this and we have found that the previous Vulcan representatives and Cdr Ken Dyke to be as open and honest as they could be given the restrictions in which they work.

At our last site operations sub group meeting it was agreed that the health, safety and environmental matrix for Vulcan would now be presented as part of their regular update and we will now request a written update for these sub group meetings rather than relying on a verbal update and we hope that this will start to rebuild bridges.

As you are aware a number of political representatives were made aware of this issue and raised serious concerns. We have no wish to get involved in a political argument. However, given that the DSG is fully funded by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), if an issue like this was to be happen again DSG members would have to consider seriously whether it would be worthwhile continuing our engagement with MOD.

Yours sincerely



David Flear
DSG Chairman

cc. Commander Ken Dyke
Mark Rouse, Dounreay Managing Director
Nigel Lowe, NDA Head of Programme
DSG members