



Our Ref: DSG(2014)C053
6th August 2014

The Rt Hon Michael Fallon, MP
Secretary of State for Defence
House of Commons
London

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Dear Sir

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP AND VULCAN MOD SITE

May I open this letter by congratulating you on your recent appointment as Secretary of State for Defence. You may be aware that your predecessor, Philip Hammond, had been in recent correspondence with the Dounreay Stakeholder Group regarding an occurrence which happened in 2012 and was not reported to the Dounreay Stakeholder Group until 2014.

In connection with the correspondence sent to and received from Philip Hammond it was made clear that it was necessary for the Ministry of Defence to be more open and transparent than they had previously been. I would also add that we are aware of the security sensitivities and the fact that those working at the Vulcan site were not the decision makers in withholding this information for two years. I am pleased to say that we are seeing a step-change in the information being received from the Vulcan site and this is welcomed by DSG members.

At our last public meeting, held in June 2014, a written report was received from Vulcan and members discussed a statement in that report. The statement was as follows:

“Vulcan Defuel and Decommissioning Programme

As presented to the DSG in December 2012 and updated in July 2013, the Vulcan Defuel and Decommissioning Programme is currently in the assessment phase. The assessment phase is expected to report in 2016 and will make recommendations to Ministers on the future of the site. Ministers announced in November 2011 that a PWR 3 prototype reactor core at Vulcan NRTE was not required. The Defence Secretary has asked the MOD Chief Scientific Adviser to revisit this decision in light of the Fuel Element Breach and report to him by October.”

I am writing to you to inform you that the DSG welcome the decision to review the need for a PWR 3 prototype reactor core at Vulcan and wish to place on record that the majority of DSG members would support this work to be carried out at Vulcan and would like to be kept up to date with the review as it moves forward.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely


pp David Flear
DSG Chairman

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