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David Flear
DSG Chairman
Dounreay Stakeholder Group
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Our ref: L25Mar01(Flear)

Dear 

Nigel Lowe has sent me the e-mail you received concerning comments I made at the Public Accounts Committee meeting on the 11th March, 2015. Thank you for the opportunity to clarify my position.

I thought it might be helpful if I provided you with a direct extract from the transcript of the hearing which is now available on the www.Parliament.UK website. In response to a line of questioning that referred to the recent article in the John O'Groats Journal, I stated:-

"Our experience at Dounreay is that the new contractor has brought in a very aggressive programme of work that is scheduled to deliver significant savings to the UK taxpayer. Of course there are challenges there. There always are. These are difficult and challenging sites. In making changes, there is no doubt that there have been some feathers ruffled in the Caithness region."

My reference to "some feathers ruffled in the Caithness region" is a reflection of my view that when major change occurs, as is happening at Dounreay, there are likely to be some stakeholders who support the initiative, some who need further clarification and some who are opposed to it. I am sure you will agree with me this has been the situation in Caithness as it would be anywhere else. I did not say "staff were angry" nor make reference to "their contracts finishing earlier" as the forwarded email claims.

For the avoidance of doubt, I, like you, recognise that there are leadership matters at Dounreay around environmental, health and safety which are of concern and are above and beyond the change agenda I have addressed above. I am aware these are being actively progressed and I look forward to the Improvement Notice from ONR and RSA variation from SEPA being lifted in line with the regulator's expectations.

Finally, may I thank you for the work you have done and continue to do for the Dounreay Stakeholder Group and congratulate you on your appointment as chairman for a further year.



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We fully understand that the uncertainties of the recent Dounreay programme revision, and the issues that are being dealt with through the Dounreay Improvement Plan, have led to a testing time for the DSRL workforce. We greatly appreciate the time and effort made by you and your members on behalf of the Dounreay staff and the wider community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Clarke', written in a cursive style.

John Clarke
Chief Executive