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Mr F Ewing, MSP  
Minister for Business, Energy and Tourism  
Scottish Government  
Edinburgh  
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Dear Mr Ewing

We are writing on behalf of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group (DSG) and Thurso and Wick Trade Union Council in response to the recent GMB press release.

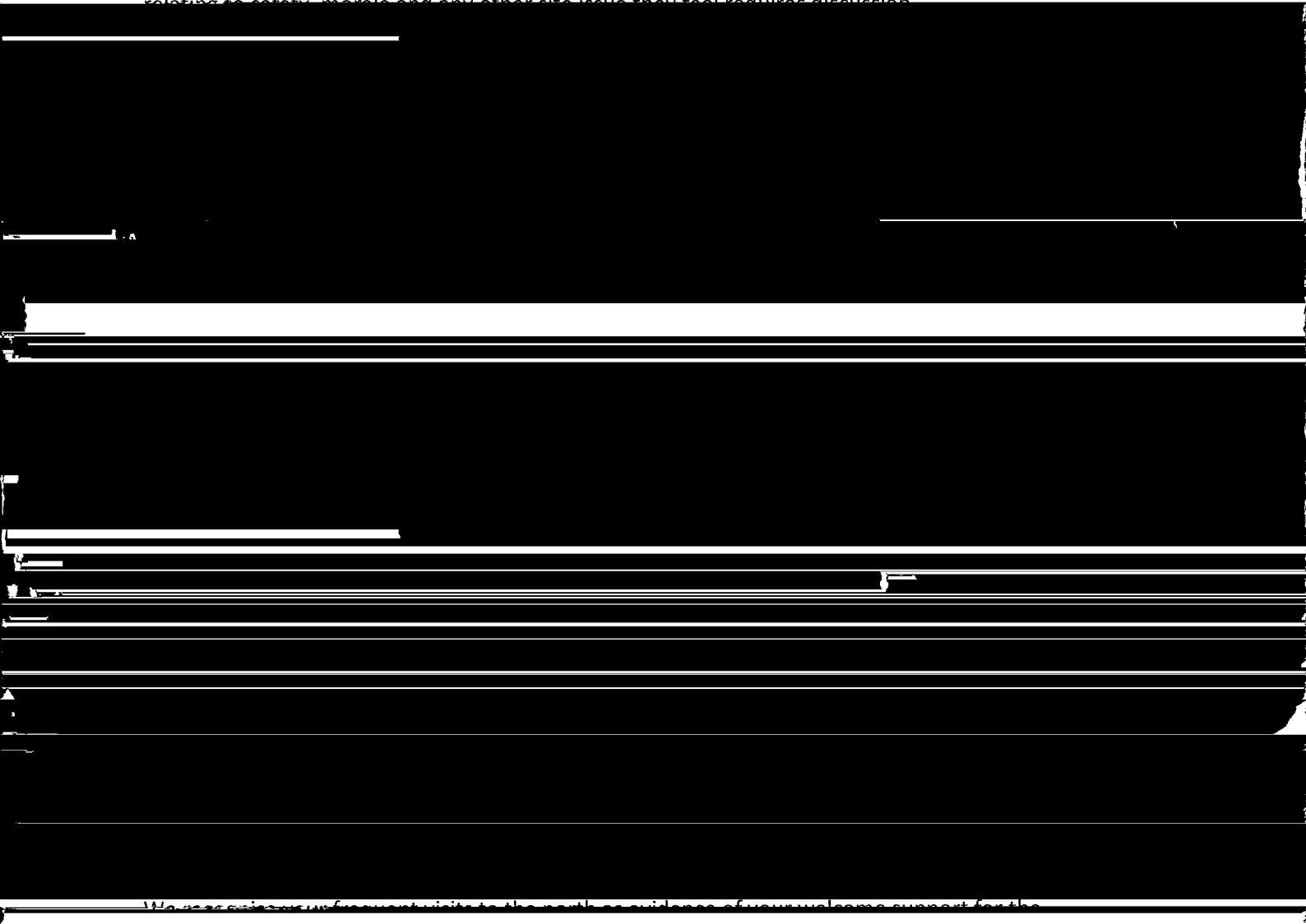
We were puzzled and concerned over the timing of this press release when we have been addressing the issues of safety and site morale for well over a year now and the site management have been very open with us in our public meetings.

The GMB also produced a press release in August 2013 almost a year after the Thurso and Wick

and DSRL. The CNSRP Programme Manager also sits on the Trades Council and therefore GMB's concerns regarding the creation of jobs could have been addressed at these meetings.

It has always been recognised there is a balance to be made between the creation of jobs at a time when the Dounreay site requires its' workforce to complete the decommissioning programme. Any funding that is prioritised and invested in infrastructure projects now (such as harbours, schools, business/industrial space, airport, roads) are therefore to ensure the right developments are in place so that our area (and its' workforce) is prepared for future opportunities such as offshore wind, tidal energy, oil and gas. The levels of economic growth achieved by local companies over the past 7 years highlights that the area's economic transition process is already underway.

We are disappointed that GMB representatives chose not to speak with either the DSG or the T&WTUC before issuing their press release, even though the Dounreay Unions have a representative on both organisations. Both of these organisations provide forums for feeding through information relating to safety, morale and any other site issues they feel requires discussion.



We appreciate your commitment to the north and welcome your support for the