



19th April 2017
Ref: DSG(2017)C016

MOD Ministerial Correspondence Unit
5th Floor, Zone A
Main Building
Whitehall, London
SW1A 2HB

Dear Sir/Madam

REQUIREMENTS FOR MOD TO ENGAGE/CONSULT WITH THE COMMUNITY

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 this group MOD Vulcan is also included albeit that the remit of MOD is slightly different in community engagement than the NDA.

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

We had previously written to you (15th May 2012 – DSG(2012)C043 refers) regarding the future of the MOD Vulcan site following the decision to cease your prototyping of submarines.

Despite continued questions as to whether MOD will seek community views on the future of the site we have not received any assurance that MOD will undertake this. We are aware that MOD is assessing the options for the future of the site and continue to stress the importance of having community input to this assessment process. We do not want to be included at the end of the process when a decision has already been made.

We also note that MOD carried out a comprehensive stakeholder consultation on the decommissioning of submarines (a presentation of this was provided at the Scottish Government Scottish Nuclear sites meeting) and therefore recognise that MOD are content to consult on particular topics.

Please respond to:

**June Love
DSG Secretariat
Dounreay.com
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7 Orlig Street
Thurso, Caithness, KW14 7BJ**

**Tel: 01847 890886
Email: info@dounreaystakeholdergroup.org**

I am writing to you to ask for clarification on whether you have requirements to engage/consult with the community prior to decisions being made, ie to include the community views in your process going forward. While we entirely accept that the ultimate decision will be UK Government and MOD we feel it is essential that the community has a say in the future of a site which has supported your operations successfully over many decades.

While, through the DSG, we continue to receive updates from Vulcan responses to our continued questions on community involvement in decision making has not been clearly responded to. Therefore we ask that you specifically respond to the questions below to allow clarity for DSG members, and the wider community, going forward.

Questions:

- J What are MOD's requirements to consult with communities that live close to sites where operations at that site will cease?

- J At what stage will MOD engage/consult with the local community on the options for the future of the Vulcan site?

I look forward to receiving a prompt response from you.

Yours sincerely

Roger Saxon
DSG Chairman

cc. Paul Monaghan, MP
Gail Ross, MSP