



Mr A Dodds
Chief Executive
Highland Council
Glenurquhart Road
INVERNESS

17th January 2009
Ref: DSG(2009)C005

Please respond to:

June Love
DSG Secretary
D2003/Zone 9
Dounreay
Thurso, Caithness
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Tel: 01847 806082
Email: info@dounreaystakeholdergroup.org

Dear Mr Dodds

CAITHNESS AND NORTH SUTHERLAND HIGH SCHOOLS

The Dounreay Stakeholder Group (DSG) is an independent group consisting of over 20 organisations which represents a variety of community and business organisations.

Within the terms of reference a sub group of the DSG considers the socio economic impact of the rundown of the Dounreay site and works closely with the key partners in the Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership to discuss all matters relating to this.

The DSG has been following the media reports on the state of the high schools within the area, in particular Wick High School, which has been the subject of great debate over the passed few months.

The Dounreay site will close in 196 months and the work of the Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership in trying to secure a new future for the area is to be applauded. However, it is also recognised that to attract new business to the area the social infrastructure also needs to be improved and families who may be attracted to the area will want to ensure that there is a excellent education system in place.

With this in mind DSG members would like to support the calls to improve Wick High School in the first instance and to ensure that Thurso High School and Farr High School are also considered as priorities when considering upgrading facilities.

The Highland Council, as part of the Regeneration Partnership, recognise the urgency in which the Caithness and North Sutherland area needs to diversify away from the dependency of the Dounreay site. The area needs to become a priority for all key agencies to ensure that the community is ready to take on the very difficult challenges that will face us all in regenerating the area.

With the high priority given to regeneration it is equally important that there is a good standard of education with the necessary support facilities and the DSG would urge Highland Council to reconsider the timescale for substantial improvements to Wick High School at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Sent electronically without signature

Alastair MacDonald
DSG Chair
On behalf of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group

Copied to: Fiona Hyslop, Education Minister
 John Thurso, MP
 Jamie Stone, MSP
 Rob Gibson, MSP
 Rhoda Grant, MSP
 Jamie McGrigor, MSP
 Peter Peacock, MSP
 Mary Scanlon, MSP
 David Stewart, MSP
 David Thompson, MSP