

June Love
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Your ref:	DSG(2009)C005
Our ref:	HF/AC
Date:	5 March 2009

Dear Ms Love

CAITHNESS AND NORTH SUTHERLAND HIGH SCHOOLS

I refer to your letter to Alistair Dodds, Chief Executive, dated 17th January 2009 and would apologise for the delay in responding.

I note that the Dounreay site will close within the next 16 years and that a sub-group of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group (DSG) in conjunction with the Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership is actively involved in addressing the related socio-economic impact.

In order to address immediate needs at Thurso High School and Wick High School the Highland Council will have spent a total of £2.5M at both campuses over the period from summer 2008 to winter 2009.

A report will be presented to the Education Culture & Sport (ECS) Committee in May 2009 that outlines a strategic approach to identifying the future development of the school estate on an integrated basis within specified towns, taking into account both educational and community requirements. It is likely that both Thurso and Wick will be included within this strategic review process.

The Council is committed to providing a high quality learning experience for all pupils. Allied to this objective the Council is also committed to developing the school estate in order to create a learning environment that meets the changing requirements of the curriculum. Unfortunately due to resources constraints the delivery of the latter takes longer. However the strategic review referred to above will ensure that the school estate within Thurso and Wick will be reviewed within the next 12 to 18 months. Thereafter investment proposals will be brought back to the ECS Committee for consideration prior to any statutory consultation with communities.

Yours sincerely

Original letter sent with signature

HUGH FRASER
Director of Education, Culture and Sport