



Andrew Parrish
Corporate Operations - Secretariat

sda-corpops-polsec@mod.gov.uk

Ms June Love
DSG Secretariat

info@dounreaystakeholdergroup.org

Your Ref: DSG(2019)C011

Maple 0a, Mail Point #2043
MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH

Date: 22 May 2019

Our Ref: TO2019/04540

Dear Ms Love,

Thank you for your letter dated 5 April 2019 from Mr Roger Saxon, Chairman of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group (DSG), to the Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP, then Secretary of State for Defence, concerning the future use of the Nuclear Reactor Test Establishment Vulcan. Also enclosed was a letter dated 9 April to Commodore Mark Adams, the Submarine Delivery Agency Head of Nuclear Propulsion. I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Submarine Delivery Agency, who are responsible within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) for the Vulcan site. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you.

It is disappointing that members of the DSG feel that MOD representatives' interaction with the stakeholder group has at times not been as open and honest as their neighbouring site (DSRL) representatives, that is certainly not the intent. I can assure you that we remain committed to maintaining a dialogue with all stakeholders, including the DSG, regarding the future of the Vulcan site. I understand that, due to illness the usual MOD attendee, an alternative MOD representative was provided at very short notice for the DSG meeting on 13 March, which I believe demonstrates our commitment to working with your organisation, rather than any unwillingness on our part to do so.

The MOD has through DSG Sub-group interaction, previously actively sought the DSG's suggestions for the future of the Vulcan site and we are grateful for your response. We are using an array of data to assist us with the development of options for the site and analysis is ongoing; the MOD is currently undertaking the costing appraisal aspect to help inform and mature options. You are aware of the MoD intent to potentially run a competition for the future management and delivery of the decommissioning of the Vulcan site and the constraint this brings. It is for this reason that the MoD is unwilling to expose emerging thinking on Options in public forum. As stated previously, in due course, the MOD will undertake the required statutory consultations that will provide the DSG, as well as other stakeholders, an opportunity to contribute to that process. Once options are appropriately mature the Vulcan Site team will provide an update on options, however, it is unlikely that maturity of understanding will be available to inform the June 2019 public DSG meeting.

Our focus remains a solution that aims to be consistent with the Dounreay Civil Site decommissioning timeline of 2030-33.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Parrish
Corporate Operations – Secretariat
Submarine Delivery Agency