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Roger Saxon, DSG Chairman
Dounreay Stakeholder Group
By email: info@dounreaystakeholdergroup.org

Your ref: DSG(2019)C013
Our ref: A24511645

24 May 2019

Dear Mr Saxon,

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP - MOD VULCAN SITE

Thank you for your letter of 5 April 2019, asking for Scottish Government support regarding Ministry of Defence's community engagement activities in respect of the Vulcan site. I apologise for not replying sooner.

As you acknowledge in your letter, the overall responsibility for the Vulcan site rests with the Ministry of Defence. I therefore await with interest their response to the community concerns about the Department's procurement, transparency and community engagement strategies in relation to Vulcan.

I note and accept your point that the Scottish Government, in conjunction with others, has a responsibility to consider the views from community representatives, particularly those who may be more affected by environmental or socio-economic impacts from this major nuclear decommissioning programme.

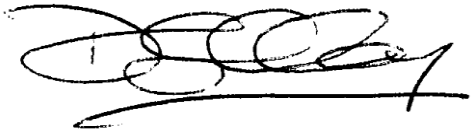
I can assure you that the Scottish Government is committed to helping increase openness, transparency and dialogue on nuclear decommissioning matters in or affecting Scotland. You may recall that, in March 2014, the previous Environment Secretary publicly called for openness and transparency from the Ministry of Defence following an incident at Vulcan.

As you are aware, the Scottish Government chairs the Scottish Nuclear Sites meeting of which both DSG and MoD are important participants. We will aim to ensure that this forum continues to provide useful insight on the activities of a range of organisations involved in nuclear decommissioning. We will also review ways to increase our presence and attendance at the Dounreay Stakeholder Group and other key forums.



You ask about what discussions have taken place between the Scottish Government and Ministry of Defence regarding the future of the Vulcan programme. My officials are members of the Nuclear Decommissioning Strategy and Policy Group (NDSPG). This group includes representatives from the Ministry of Defence. I can confirm that the issues highlighted in your letter were raised at the last meeting of the group, and that responsibility for responding to the substance of the current procurement and engagement issues at Vulcan lies with MoD.

In conclusion, the Scottish Government is committed to openness and transparency in decommissioning matters and awaits with interest the Ministry of Defence response to the issues you raise.



D McGillivray
Deputy Director