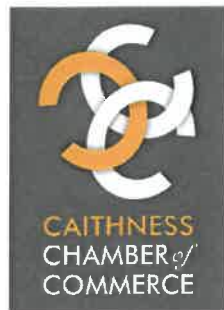


Debbie Francis  
 Managing Director  
 Direct Rail Services Ltd  
 Direct Rail Services Head Office  
 Regents Court  
 Baron Way  
 Carlisle  
 Cumbria  
 CA6 4SJ



**STRONGER  
TOGETHER**

**Date:** 13/01/2020  
**Our ref:** TM/CTF/2020/DF01

Dear Debbie,

We are writing to you today on behalf of the Caithness Transport Forum (CTF) and Dounreay Stakeholder Group (DSG) to raise our serious concerns regarding the lack of progress on intermodal freight trials at Georgemas Junction and the lack of communication from Direct Rail Services (DRS).

At the Caithness Transport Forum, we have been discussing the possibility of commercial freight at Georgemas with DRS for at least five years, and at the first meeting in 2018 were advised to expect a date for a commercial freight trial to be announced soon. Yet as we head into 2020, there appears to have been no progress made.

While this lack of progress is concerning in itself, what deepens our concern is the recent lack of communication from DRS, with no updates received from DRS for the last two meetings of the Forum in September and December 2019.

We consider this lack of progress and communication not just frustrating but utterly unacceptable. The intention when developing the railhead at Georgemas Junction was always to leave a legacy for the local community, and the continued lack of progress on a commercial development represents a real risk to this legacy.

In addition, both the CTF and the DSG represent key groups of stakeholders in the North Highlands, and the continued failure of DRS to communicate openly and transparently with stakeholders shows a lack of respect for the communities which will be impacted by the decommissioning of Dounreay.

We would appreciate an update on the progress and plans for a commercial freight trial at Georgemas as a matter of urgency, as well as a clear roadmap for future development plans and a commitment to engage with both the CTF and the DSG going forward.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Trudy Morris  
 Chair, Caithness Transport Forum

Roger Saxon  
 Chairman, Dounreay Stakeholder Group

**Caithness Chamber of Commerce**  
**Naver Business Centre, Naver House, Naver Road, Thurso, Caithness KW14 7QA**  
**T: 01847 890076; E: [info@caithnesschamber.com](mailto:info@caithnesschamber.com); W: [www.caithnesschamber.com](http://www.caithnesschamber.com)**

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