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Dear Trudy and Roger,

Thank you for your letter from the Caithness Transport Forum and Dounreay Stakeholder Group bringing this to my attention.

I am very sorry you feel we have not made sufficient progress and that there has been a breakdown of communication between Direct Rail Services (DRS) and the groups.

Firstly, let me assure you DRS is committed to a commercial trial at Georgemas and my Commercial team has been working hard to find a partner since our first meeting, it has long been a joint ambition to use Georgemas Junction for commercial freight. However, finding a suitable partner is a complicated task and we had to ensure we got the right people onboard.

The Commercial team is continuing to work with all of the relevant partners and are looking to schedule a date in March. The delays have been due to the Rail Head Treatment Train commitments in autumn and, due to the number of people we would like to attend the trial, the weather conditions in January to March.

I have spoken to the Communications team and unfortunately it seems the update requests have been sent to one of our managers who has been out of the office since October on maternity leave; their out of office replies must not have been received. Please rest assured we have not been ignoring you and at no point would I want you to feel like we have anything but the utmost respect for the communities you represent.

To ensure there are no missed updates I have asked my Communications Manager to contact David Swanson to ensure you have all of the correct and up to date addresses. You can also call our Communications office on 01228 406525 to request an update at any time.

I would like to reiterate Direct Rail Services' commitment to this trial and we will all be working to set a firm date as soon as is practically possible.

Thank you all for your continued patience and commitment to work with DRS.

If you have any further comments or questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Yours Sincerely  
Debbie Francis

