



Roger Saxon  
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Dear Roger,

Thank you for your letter of 25 February. As the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Tourism noted in his evidence to the Rural Economy Committee on Wednesday 19 Feb, the Scottish Government is committed to working closely with HIE to identify opportunities to manage the in year financial pressures arising from the budget so that HIE can continue to meet the needs of businesses and communities across the region.

This budget will support priorities set out in HIE's Strategic Plan and allow the agency to provide practical support and opportunities for sectors and businesses to grow and invest in the region. The Scottish Government are also supporting the economy and communities of the Highlands and Islands through our commitment of over £200m over the next ten years to city region and growth deals, our additional support for agriculture and forestry and continued support for the Scottish Rural Development Programme.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise continues to work closely with Scottish Government, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and others in the Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership (CNSRP) to identify and pursue opportunities that will help move the area away from its dependence on Dounreay decommissioning work.

Since 2008, around 1600 new and retained full time equivalent jobs have been recorded in the area, and partners remain confident that by identifying opportunities such as Spacehub Sutherland, offshore wind and advanced engineering the area's future economic prospects remain bright.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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Highlands and Islands Enterprise will continue to play a central role in supporting inclusive economic growth in Caithness and North Sutherland as the Dounreay site and its workforce moves towards decommissioning end state in the early 2030s.



**KATE FORBES**

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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