

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

DISCUSSION WITH NDA CHAIR, ROS RIVAZ AND NDA CHIEF EXECUTIVE, DAVID PEATTIE ON WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2020 AT 0900 HRS VIA TEAMS.

In attendance:	Cllr Struan Mackie	DSG Chair
	Davie Alexander	DSG Vice-chair
	Ros Rivaz	NDA Chair
	David Peattie	NDA Chief Executive
	Gareth Taylor	NDA Head of Programme
	David Wallace	NDA Stakeholder Relations
	June Love	DSRL, DSG Secretariat

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked both Ros Rivaz and David Peattie for taking time out for a virtual meeting given their visit to the site had been cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. David Peattie, NDA CEO introduced Ros Rivaz newly appointed NDA Chair.

- Ros Rivaz noted she was excited about joining the NDA at this time adding there was so many challenges within nuclear decommissioning. She provided a brief background of her career to date which encompassed a lot of similarities with nuclear challenges, (ie security, safety, regulation, safeguarding). The difference in her past career was that she had not dealt with nuclear high hazards.
- David Peattie, NDA CEO noted the following:
 - emphasised the nationally important role of the NDA estate and noted that Dounreay had an important role to play.
 - number of virtual meetings with various DSRL groups held yesterday including discussions with Wellbeing group, Women in Nuclear, Unions alongside an open Q&A session with staff.
 - Moving back to a One NDA approach – DSRL will transition at the end of March 2021 with LLWR in July 2021. Therefore, by next summer all the SLCs would be back in-house and become part of the One NDA business.

DSG Chair/vice-chair raised a number of questions. Of note:

- **Future changes to the NDA SLCs structure.**

David Peattie responded that no such decisions had been made and there would be a period of stability following the site's transition. He also noted there would be no big job losses at the site in the short term although it had to be noted that the decommissioning programme would eventually lead to job reductions.

He added that Dounreay had many similarities with Sellafield, and the two Scottish Magnox sites and past history with Harwell and Winfirth. Therefore, in answer to the question about further changes it was too early to respond in any great clarity but would be something that would be considered in the future. His main focus at this point was to transition DSRL and then allow a period of continuity to allow the site to settle down.

- David Peattie emphasised the key role that Dounreay could play as a lead and learn site. He also noted that in the future some of the AGR sites would come under NDA's remit as they progressed to decommissioning and there were potential opportunities there.

Progress on site transition, appointment of new Executive Team, length of employment:

- David Peattie confirmed the transition was progressing well and following appointment of the Executive team there would be no fundamental changes in the structure of that team. As far as possible NDA wish to maintain some form of continuity and they had the option of 1 or 2 of the PBO secondee staff staying on after the transition for a period of time. He stressed that there would be continued support and commitment to the socio economics of the area and acknowledged the early discussions on a potential for the workforce to support the overall NDA mission with more flexibility among staff who may wish to move to other sites or the potential to work remotely to support another site. Positive discussions between NDA and DSRL were ongoing around setting up offices in Thurso and Wick.
- Struan Mackie asked whether the new MD appointed would be in post to allow that person to be part of building the new executive team. David Peattie responded that this Friday was the final candidate for the MD post and the calibre of applications had been very good. Applicants had been a mix of people from the Dounreay site, the oil and gas sector as well as others industry sectors.
- Struan Mackie asked how long these appointments would cover noting that it would be good to see someone coming in that had to bear in mind there would be difficult decisions to be made further down the line and therefore the length of contract was essential to ensure they did not put off these difficult decision just to hand over to the next person coming in. David Peattie acknowledged that these posts would be for a much longer term and throughout the interview process had made it clear they would prefer to see a relocation of the individual.
- Struan Mackie asked how secure the funding was for the Dounreay site noting that once the fuel was all off site the category of the site would be reduced. He asked if there would be a threat to the site's funding once the high hazards were completed. David Peattie said there was still much work to do at Dounreay including high hazard decommissioning, ie DFR which is a priority for ONR alongside other big projects including shaft and silo. He believed that there would be adequate funding available for the site to continue its activities and did not expect a massive change to the site budget of £200m/year.

Ros Rivaz also noted that there was some outstanding expertise on the Dounreay site and could potentially see more work coming to the site to support some of the technical challenges that Sellafield would face further down the line.

- Davie Alexander noted that a key topic for DSG was around skills. He noted that the PBO had announced the potential opportunity for an Engineering hub – that discussion had morphed into a DSRL Nuclear Services hub. He was keen to hear if NDA could provide some assurances that this would be considered. David Peattie responded that NDA would be looking at the skills base and was aware that DSRL was just about to start a skills audit. He noted that NDA could not commit to identical promises made by the PBO but noted it would be in NDA's interest to keep valuable skills available. He suggested that this was something worthwhile continuing to work

on and to keep the dialogue going.

- Struan Mackie asked about the nuclear sector deal and asked whether this was something the site could get more involved in under the OneNDA business. David Peattie felt it was because of the technical expertise on the site and there would be less complications around commercial activity in other countries (ie Japan).

Vulcan site:

- Davie Alexander asked whether NDA were in dialogue with MOD about the decommissioning of the Vulcan site. David Peattie confirmed there had been early dialogue as the NDA owned the land with MOD operating the site. He emphasised this was early days but re-iterated discussions were underway.

Direct Rail Services (Georgemas):

- Davie Alexander noted the DSG (and Caithness Transport Forum) frustration at the promised commercial freight trial by DRS noting that this had been promised over three years ago. David Peattie responded that he did not have the details of this but asked Gareth Taylor/David Wallace to look into this.

Given time constraints the meeting closed at 0945 hrs. Cllr Struan Mackie thanked everyone for their time and for the open and honesty of the discussion. The meeting was then closed.