

Caithness Chamber of Commerce
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Chris Connelly
Managing Director
Direct Rail Services Ltd
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07/01/2021

Dear Trudy and Struan,

It is with deep regret that I must yet again write to you regarding the postponement of the commercial trial at Georgemas. I would like to make it clear, however, that this is a postponement and the trial will take place.

When I wrote to you in December Covid-19 cases were under control and the great news about a vaccine was making the headlines, that landscape has changed greatly over the last few weeks.

The recent lockdowns in England and Scotland require only essential travel to limit the spread of Covid-19. The trial requires extra personnel to make the journey and, after much consideration, I feel this puts people at avoidable risk.

To expand on that a little, we'd require around 10 people to travel and stay overnight for the trial, which is more than we require for our current operations, many of those will come from within Scotland but some will be coming from Carlisle and it is, unfortunately, a Covid-19 hotspot at the moment.

We of course have a great deal of safeguards in place – antibody tests, safety bubbles, strict procedures and PPE. However, the question which was posed was – If someone contracted Covid-19, either DRS personnel or the people of Caithness, because of the trial could we say that it was essential it take place during a lockdown?

As soon as the lockdown is over and the virus is back under control a new date will be set.

Georgemas is a vital part of DRS's operations and we value the fantastic work of the Caithness Chamber of Commerce and the people of Caithness for their tireless support.

I would, once again, like to thank you all for your continued patience and commitment to work with DRS.



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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Connelly".

Chris Connelly, Managing Director

