

DSG(2021)C022

Chris Connelly  
Rail Director and Deputy CEO  
Nuclear Transport Solutions  
Regents Court  
Baron Way, Carlisle  
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**Date:** 13 May 2021

**Our ref:** TM/CTF/2021/CC01

Dear Chris,

I would like to first extend my thanks to you and your team for arranging the recent commercial trial at Georgemas Junction and for extending the invitation to us to attend. It was an interesting and instructive demonstration and we were pleased to have the opportunity to view it firsthand.

While it is clear that the trial has served its purpose in demonstrating that it is possible to use the railhead at Georgemas to load and unload intermodal containers, we now have to consider the wider question of the socioeconomic legacy that this facility will leave for the region.

We are concerned that while the facility can technically be used to facilitate commercial freight movements, as this trial has demonstrated, doing so appears to be considerably more time and labour intensive than would be the case at other terminals. This begs the question of whether any commercial customers would be willing to take on board the additional cost requirement this would presumably entail.

You note that you continue to seek a commercial customer for rail flows and that the facility is open to usage by alternative rail operators should the opportunity arise, and we welcome your continued efforts in this area. However, with the end of the nuclear freight flows on the horizon, and other developments in rail proceeding in the region, we need to understand whether you believe that use of the facility for commercial freight is feasible within the next three years.

Ultimately, we want to ensure that the railhead at Georgemas leaves a meaningful socioeconomic legacy for the region. If that is through usage as a commercial freight terminal then so much the better, but if that is not felt to be feasible within the coming years, we would be well served to look at alternative future usages for the facility.

Once again we appreciate you taking the time to arrange the demonstration and for inviting us to attend, and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,



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Trudy Morris  
Chair, Caithness Transport Forum



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