



Alan Cumming | Group Chief Operations and Performance Improvement Officer

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DSG(2021)C057

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7 December 2021

Dear Struan

Many thanks for your letter dated 22nd November 2021.

Can I firstly thank you and members of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group for your engagement with NDA and DSRL, which is much appreciated by myself, David Peattie and the rest of the NDA Executive Team.

Feedback and constructive challenge play an important role in how we develop our plans and how we do business on a day to day basis. It is especially important in a time of significant change – not just as a result of the COVID pandemic, but also as we roll out our new group operating model.

Our links with DSG, through Mark Rouse, his team along with my team, have been invaluable, and will become ever more important as we position Dounreay as a 'key player' within the wider NDA estate.

We have an exciting future, and are rising to new challenges, and as you note, resolution of wider national issues including waste policy in Scotland are important.

We engage closely with Scottish Government and its Radioactive Waste Team, which, alongside our work with SEPA, is key to our work in Scotland.

Our current interactions with Scottish Government occur at a number of levels:

We have a monthly update meeting with the SG Radioactive Waste Team through our Stakeholder Lead in Scotland, David Wallace. This meeting is wide ranging to include both operational and strategic activity and is an important way we can support the SG Radioactive Waste team of 'policy advisers' and supplement the advice and expertise they draw on from SEPA, NDA and ONR.



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Our strategy team works closely with the SG Radioactive Waste Team to advise on longer-term policy issues – most recently through discussions on our Strategy 4 document. Included in this document, is a specific commitment to work with Scottish Government regarding difficult wastes in Dounreay. Our strategic engagement is primarily through our Chief Strategist for Integrated Waste Management Team, James McKinney. James and the team will continue to discuss the impacts of Scottish High Activity Waste policy on NDA's decommissioning plans going forward.

Steve Hardy, NDA's Director of Environment, is working closely with SEPA and Scottish Government on issues that relate to both compliance and policy. Just last week, Steve facilitated a visit with the SG Radioactive Waste Team, and senior management from SEPA, Magnox and Dounreay, to our Hunterston A site to discuss some of the challenges we face dealing with waste in Scotland.

In addition, you will be aware our sites around Scotland have almost daily operational contact with both SEPA and ONR in relation to the safe operation of our sites as well as any issues relating to long-term storage of waste.

Our new group operating model, allows us to further supplement these interactions with Scottish Government, and draw on the combined resources and expertise across the group to deliver our strategic priorities.

Whilst we recognise there are issues that need to be addressed, we remain committed to building on our positive relationship with Scottish Government to provide advice on all areas within our remit. In fact, we have scheduled a meeting for early in the new year where David Peattie and myself will have an opportunity to meet with SG Ministers.

As to your final point on Scottish Government's potential plans to consult with the public on Scottish Higher Activity Waste Policy, we are actively supporting Scottish Government with work in this area and we expect some clarification of their position early in the New Year.

Thank you again to you and all DSG members for your commitment and can I take this opportunity to wish you a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. I look forward to meeting you in Thurso.

Kind regards

Alan Cumming

NDA Group Chief Operations and Performance Improvement Officer



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