



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

DSG(2022)C009

Maree Todd MSP

Caithness, Sutherland & Ross

Dear David,

Many thanks for your letter. I am responding to you today in my capacity as MSP for Caithness, Sutherland & Ross.

I apologise that the Dounreay Stakeholder Group were not consulted prior to this comment, however this was in no way intentional. In this instance, I was asked to provide comment on a story, therefore my time to respond was limited. This was not a proactive press release, but a reactive comment. Given this, I'm sure you will understand that my length of comment was restricted. I, of course, recognise the wealth of benefits nuclear has brought to Caithness and I want to see the skills developed here, harnessed and utilised in the industries of tomorrow.

The Scottish Government's opposition to new nuclear generation considers the value for consumers. Internal analysis of the Scottish Government demonstrates that in 2030 alone Hinkley Point C, the nuclear power station in Somerset could add almost £40/year to a consumer bill, whilst the equivalent offshore wind farm would reduce consumer bills by £8/year. There remains considerable uncertainty around the economics of new nuclear generation, and the long-term storage of nuclear waste remains a difficult issue. The latest Contracts for Difference (CfD) auction delivered offshore wind at £39.65 per megawatt hour – substantially below the £92.50 awarded to Hinkley.

The Scottish Government's forthcoming Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan will provide a clear roadmap for Scotland's energy system. It will be co-designed with workers, businesses and communities across the country and establish a shared vision for Scotland's energy system, identifying concrete steps to manage the economic and social impacts of the transition fairly. As constituency MSP, I am keen to ensure communities in my constituency are represented and consulted with.

I am always keen to meet with constituents and stakeholder groups to discuss any concerns and I am more than happy to attend a future meeting. I wonder if it might also be helpful to consider inviting other ministerial colleagues at some point to set out the breadth of work Scottish Government is doing on regeneration, just transition, enterprise etc. and ensure that the situation in Caithness is heard directly by my colleagues?

Could you please advise if this meeting would be in person or virtual? As you might imagine my diary is somewhat constrained, but I am sure we can find a mutually agreeable date.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maree Todd". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Maree Todd MSP

Caithness, Sutherland & Ross

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