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DSG(2022)C016

Maree Todd MSP
Email: maree.todd@parliament.scot

Our ref: 202200292865
Your reference: Your Reference: Consultation with Caithness Community & Stakeholders

10 May 2022

Dear Maree,

Thank you very much for your letter,

We recognise the vital role of nuclear research and decommissioning has had over the past (almost) 70 years in the Caithness and North Sutherland region of Scotland. We particularly recognise the influence and the importance it has had on the local community and economy with the creation of thousands of highly skilled workers from its use as a research facility and today during its long process of decommissioning.

Scottish Ministers are keen to hear the views of key stakeholders including the Dounreay Stakeholder Group and Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership (CNSRP). Community views on ways to improve current national radioactive waste management policies and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)'s 5 year strategy, that could help increase socio-economic investment to the region would be particularly welcome.

As you have mentioned our ESJTP is set to be published in the Autumn this year, and as part of this, a series of intense engagements with local communities will be conducted during the summer across the country. During this process we are aiming to listen to all those most impacted/affected by the energy transition and to gather their lived experiences and opinions on Scotland's future energy system. No-one has all the answers, and so our plans will be co-designed with workers, businesses and especially communities across the country in line with the principles set out in our world-first National Just Transition Planning Framework. Our engagement process must be partnership-led and we will be working with Local Government, trade unions and business organisations to support co-design of the Energy Just Transition Plan.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire
Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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During this Summer's engagement for the ESJTP we would welcome the opportunity to visit Caithness and hear from stakeholders there, in order to fully understand and appreciate the role the region can play to aid Scotland's transition to NetZero. We envisage this to have a particular focus on hearing from the communities, workers and businesses interlinked to the nuclear sites at Dounreay.

I would be very keen to accept your offer of visiting the Caithness community, and will ask officials to make this part of plans for this summer's activities.

In the meantime, you mention that you have been invited to a public meeting with the Dounreay Stakeholder group. Please do liaise with officials: calum.mckay@gov.scot or stuart.matheson@gov.scot when you hear more about this, so that they could attend and/or follow up in relation to summer engagement plans for the ESJTP.

Yours sincerely,



RICHARD LOCHHEAD

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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