



Please respond to:

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Andrew Bowie MP
Unit 6, 75 Highstreet
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Minister,

On behalf of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group (DSG), I wish to congratulate you on your new role as the Minister responsible for nuclear.

This is an incredibly important ministerial post and one that overlaps in scope with much of the work the DSG undertakes as a NDA site stakeholder group. It is for this reason that members have asked me to make formal representations to you and the department.

Caithness and North Sutherland is a community with proud roots in both the civil and defence nuclear industries. As the UK's centre for fast reactor technology and home to the Royal Navy's Shore Test Facility for nuclear propulsion, our community has been at the forefront of nuclear development and keeping our nation safe for over seventy years.

Following the planned shut-downs of no fewer than five reactor types, the focus of activity has shifted from operations and research to decommissioning. Our highly skilled workforce and world-leading supply chain know that there is a nationally important mission to clean up the Dounreay and Vulcan sites and develop new approaches that will help decommission other parts of the British nuclear estate.

Whilst this mission is key to the future prospects of our area, we also believe that new-nuclear presents an opportunity for our workforce and local firms who harbour decades of experience in the R&D, prototypical deployment and operation of nuclear plants.

Despite clear support for new nuclear development and politically tested local authority

support, we accept that new nuclear (whether conventional or prototypical) is unlikely due to the political ideology of the Scottish Government.

Although our community is understandably frustrated and disappointed and feel that this is a clear missed opportunity for the Far North, we wish to impress on the UK Government that the skills, experience and supply chain capability can be deployed and utilised from Caithness and North Sutherland for new development elsewhere.

We wish to extend an invitation to visit our nuclear community and meet with key stakeholders in Caithness and North Sutherland, including members of our newly invigorated regeneration partnership Focus North.

Our region benefits from the socio-economic initiatives made possible through the NDA and vital job-creating activity is planned for the coming years. We believe it is important to leverage the support of both the UK and Scottish Governments in developing activities that diversify our economy, whilst supporting and nurturing our world-leading role in the nuclear industry.

We think this approach will be clear to see in any engagement you have with our stakeholder, site staff and the Dounreay unions.

I hope you will take up the opportunity to visit us in your new role. We look forward to welcoming you to Caithness very soon!

Warmest regards,

Stru

Provost Struan Mackie

Chairman of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group