



Please respond to:

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Your ref: DSG/BM(2023)M015/A01
Our ref: DSG(2023)C036

Cllr Dr S Clackson
West Manse
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5th November 2023

Cllr Dr Clackson,

I am responding to the action DSG/BM(2023)M015/A01 from the October 3rd business meeting, regarding the Dounreay Travel to Work area and any plans to extend its current scope.

As you will be aware, the Dounreay Travel to Work area or DTW is long established and is used as a socio-economic designation by local government, statutory bodies and the Dounreay site/NDA.

Whilst the scope of the area is large, covering the totality of the County of Caithness and North Sutherland from Tongue to Helmsdale, it does reflect the parts of the Highland Region where Dounreay is the principal employer, and daily travel to and from the Dounreay and Vulcan sites is commonplace for both workers and contractors.

Having discussed the matter with funders and site stakeholders, I have been informed that this clear geographical area is unlikely to be reviewed, a view that was shared by the DSG's Business Meeting.

It was noted that Focus North, our Regeneration Partnership was established with a clear scope on Caithness and North Sutherland (the DTW area). And as a result,

significant issues would be presented in reconstituting funding agreements, re-aligning cross-party (and governmental) support for regeneration and articulating a public message that is well understood in the Far North.

I accept that stakeholders will be more engaged with the activities at Dounreay and Vulcan if they have 'skin in the game' and that for local authorities outwith the DTW area the safety and security-related items will not glean as much interest as funding for our local communities.

Whilst this response will not be what you will have hoped for, be in no doubt that your contribution to the DSG and the Orkney Islands Council's reliable representation to our forum is greatly valued.

Warmest regards,

Sent electronically without signature

**Struan Mackie
DSG Chair**