



Please respond to:

**Dawn Clasper
DSG Secretariat
Dounreay.com
Traill House
7 Orlig Street
Thurso, Caithness, KW14 7BJ**

**Tel: 01847 890886
Email: info@dounreaystakeholdergroup.org**

13 March 2024

Ref: DSG(2024)C004

Minister,

Following on from our last correspondence in March 2023, I wish to restate the open invitation to meet with stakeholders and the site at Dounreay.

As you stated at the NIA event in Holyrood a short time ago, Scotland has a rich history within the nuclear sector. Our Dounreay and Vulcan sites are no exception and were at the forefront of nuclear research and development and keeping our nation safe for over seventy years.

Whilst the nuclear mission now focuses on the remediation and clean-up of the category 1 fast reactor complex (Dounreay) and the transition of NRTE Vulcan from an operating site into a decommissioning one; we are acutely aware of the nuclear renaissance and government support for the nuclear through the creation of GB Nuclear, the Civil Nuclear Roadmap and announcements on Wylfa and Oldbury.

Whilst the decommissioning mission is key to the future prospects of our area, we 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.

Although our community is understandably frustrated and disappointed that the Far North (and Scotland more generally) will miss direct opportunities to host new sites, 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.

Whilst we understand that your role is incredibly busy (and that the commitment is not just at home but abroad), as we get closer to a potential election, we are conscious of the potential restrictions of purdah. Any opportunity for yourself and the Department to visit our nuclear community and meet with key stakeholders in Caithness and North Sutherland would be most welcome and I believe would be fruitful for all parties involved.

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 Government's in developing activities that diversify our economy, whilst supporting and nurturing our world-leading role in the nuclear industry.

We hope that it will be possible to arrange a meeting and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Warmest regards,

Sent electronically without signature

Provost Struan Mackie
Chairman of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group