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DSG Secretariat
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Tel: 01847 803510

Email: info@dounreaystakeholdergroup.org

15 March 2024

Ref: DSG(2024)C006a

Dear Murray,

In advance of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group AGM on the 20th of March 2024, I wished to reach out to you and your organisation regarding DSG membership, meeting attendance and the use of substitute members.

Last year, the DSG Business Meeting undertook a review of Membership, with the review clearly outlining the importance of an active group of DSG Members, engaged and empowered to represent the views of communities across Caithness and North Sutherland.

Despite much positivity in the review, a number of key areas were identified for improvement, namely attendance. Moving back to in-person meetings (with hybrid online options using MS Teams) have improved attendance greatly. But it is clear that a number of organisations have not returned to our meetings since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the only statutory body tasked with scrutinising the decommissioning progress and socioeconomic impact of the Dounreay and Vulcan sites, our Membership is vitally important in representing our Caithness and North Sutherland Community at a local, devolved and national level.

It is our stated ambition to have a membership that is both reflective of the community we serve, as well as actively engaged in the core of activities undertaken by the DSG (our public meetings, sub-groups and ad-hoc special interest meetings).

Although our terms of reference outline that Membership is under annual review (and that attendance must be considered when supporting ongoing Membership), we have greatly appreciated your valuable contributions over the years and hope to have your continued support. We did however wish to outline some of the flexibility used by other Members to ensure that their organisations views were put forward.

The DSG understands that many of our Members are stretched and contribute to a number of groups and bodies across not only the Far North but further afield, and we are asking attendees to consider nominating a substitute within each organisation.

However, if you do not believe that your attendance provides you with any benefit then we would be grateful if you could indicate this to allow us to consider other organisations who may be in a better position to offer support and attendance at meetings.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Dounreay Business Meeting

Sent electronically without signature



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Ref: DSG(2024)C006b

Dear Member (CVG rep)

In advance of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group AGM on the 20th of March 2024, I wished to reach out to your organisation regarding DSG membership, meeting attendance and the use of substitute members.

Last year, the DSG Business Meeting undertook a review of Membership, with the review clearly outlining the importance of an active group of DSG Members, engaged and empowered to represent the views of communities across Caithness and North Sutherland.

Despite much positivity in the review, a number of key areas were identified for improvement, namely attendance. Moving back to in-person meetings (with hybrid online options using MS Teams) have improved attendance greatly. But it is clear that a number of organisations have not returned to our meetings since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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It is our stated ambition to have a membership that is both reflective of the community we serve, as well as actively engaged in the core of activities undertaken by the DSG (our public meetings, sub-groups and ad-hoc special interest meetings).

Although our terms of reference outline a provision that Membership is under annual review and that attendance must be considered when supporting ongoing Membership, we believe that CVG has a valuable contribution to make and wish to outline some of the flexibility used by other Members and their respective organisations.

The DSG understands that many of our Members are stretched and contribute to a number of groups and bodies across not only the Far North but further afield, and we are asking attendees to consider nominating a substitute within each organisation.

However, if you do not believe that your attendance provides you with any benefit then we would be grateful if you could indicate this to allow us to consider other organisations who may be in a better position to offer support and attendance at meetings.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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15 March 2024

Ref: DSG(2024)C006c

Dear Member

In advance of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group AGM on the 20th of March 2024, I wished to reach out to your organisation regarding DSG membership, meeting attendance and the use of substitute members.

Last year, the DSG Business Meeting undertook a review of Membership, with the review clearly outlining the importance of an active group of DSG Members, engaged and empowered to represent the views of communities across Caithness and North Sutherland.

Despite much positivity in the review, a number of key areas were identified for improvement, namely attendance. Moving back to in-person meetings (with hybrid online options using MS Teams) have improved attendance greatly. But it is clear that a number of organisations have not returned to our meetings since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the only statutory body tasked with scrutinising the decommissioning progress and socioeconomic impact of the Dounreay and Vulcan sites, our Membership is vitally important in representing our Caithness and North Sutherland Community at a local, devolved and national level.

It is our stated ambition to have a membership that is both reflective of the community we serve, as well as actively engaged in the core of activities undertaken by the DSG (our public meetings, sub-groups and ad-hoc special interest meetings).

Although our terms of reference outline a provision that Membership is under annual review and that attendance must be considered when supporting ongoing Membership, we believe that Woman in Nuclear has a valuable contribution to make and wish to outline some of the flexibility used by other Members and their respective organisations.

The DSG understands that many of our Members are stretched and contribute to a number of groups and bodies across not only the Far North but further afield, and we are asking attendees to consider nominating a substitute within each organisation.

However, if you do not believe that your attendance provides you with any benefit then we would be grateful if you could indicate this to allow us to consider other organisations who may be in a better position to offer support and attendance at meetings.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Dounreay Business Meeting

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15 March 2024

Ref: DSG(2024)C006d

Dear Ron, (Ron Gunn, Caithness Area Committee Chair)

In advance of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group AGM on the 20th of March 2024, I wished to reach out to your organisation regarding DSG membership, meeting attendance and the use of substitute members.

Last year, the DSG Business Meeting undertook a review of Membership, with the review clearly outlining the importance of an active group of DSG Members, engaged and empowered to represent the views of communities across Caithness and North Sutherland.

Despite much positivity in the review, a number of key areas were identified for improvement, namely attendance. Moving back to in-person meetings (with hybrid online options using MS Teams) have improved attendance greatly. But it is clear that a number of organisations have not returned to our meetings since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the only statutory body tasked with scrutinising the decommissioning progress and socioeconomic impact of the Dounreay and Vulcan sites, our Membership is vitally important in representing our Caithness and North Sutherland Community at a local, devolved and national level.

It is our stated ambition to have a membership that is both reflective of the community we serve, as well as actively engaged in the core of activities undertaken by the DSG (our public meetings, sub-groups and ad-hoc special interest meetings).

Although our terms of reference outline a provision that Membership is under annual review and that attendance must be considered when supporting ongoing Membership, that does not apply to local authority representatives. Regardless, we believe that the local authority and their elected Members have a valuable contribution to make.

Given the poor attendance at recent DSG meetings, we would ask that the Local Authority reconfirms their nominated attendees for the 2024/25 DSG term. We would also support the use of any substitutes, a facility well used by a number of our Members.

We feel that further use will provide greater resilience to the Stakeholder Group and provide every opportunity for our organisations to attend. Thank you for your continued support.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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CIIr Struan Mackie Dounreay Stakeholder Group Chairman



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15 March 2024

Ref: DSG(2024)C006e

Dear Chief Executive, (Maggie Sandison)

In advance of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group AGM on the 20th of March 2024, I wished to reach out to your organisation regarding DSG membership and the use of substitute members.

As the only statutory body tasked with scrutinising the decommissioning progress and socioeconomic impact of the Dounreay and Vulcan sites in Caithness, our Membership is vitally important in representing stakeholders at a local, devolved and national level.

Although I am conscious that Dounreay can feel very far from the Shetland Islands, there are important regional considerations for all local authorities across the Highlands and Islands. The ongoing operation and safety implications of a Category 1 licensed nuclear site, the movement of spent nuclear material and waste (by air, sea and rail), but also the economic impact and diversification of our economy away from nuclear and oil and gas are all topics that are regularly discussed at the DSG.

Last year, our Business Meeting undertook a review of our Membership, with the review outlining the importance of an active DSG Membership group. Each organisation and their representatives engaged and empowered to represent the varied views of communities across our region.

Despite much positivity in the review, a number of key areas were identified for improvement, namely meeting attendance and ensuring all our Members are aware of our activity. Moving back to in-person meetings (with hybrid online options using MS Teams) has improved attendance greatly, but it is clear that a number of organisations have not returned to our meetings since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is our stated ambition to have a membership that is both reflective of the community and region we serve, as well as actively engaged in the core of activities undertaken by the DSG (our public meetings, sub-groups and ad-hoc special interest meetings).

Although our terms of reference outline a provision that Membership is under annual review and that attendance must be considered when supporting ongoing Membership, that does not apply to local authority representatives. That is because Local Authority Membership is a Statutory Obligation under the Energy Act. We would dearly love to see The Shetland Islands Council and

your elected Members make a valuable contribution to our group going forward, whether it be digitally or in person as travel schedules and meetings permit.

We would therefore ask if the Local Authority could confirm a nominated attendee for the 2024/25 DSG term. We would also support the use of any substitutes, a facility well used by a number of our Members.

Having the Shetland Island Council attend our meetings going forward will undoubtedly provide greater resilience to the Stakeholder Group and be fruitful for both parties. Thank you for your continued support.

I look forward to hearing from you. Sent electronically without signature

Cllr Struan Mackie

Dounreay Stakeholder Group Chairman



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15 March 2024

Ref: DSG(2024)C006f

Dear Debbie,

In advance of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group AGM on the 20th of March 2024, I wished to reach out to your organisation regarding DSG membership, meeting attendance and the use of substitute members.

Last year, the DSG Business Meeting undertook a review of Membership, with the review clearly outlining the importance of an active group of DSG Members, engaged and empowered to represent the views of communities across Caithness and North Sutherland.

Despite much positivity in the review, a number of key areas were identified for improvement, namely attendance. Moving back to in-person meetings (with hybrid online options using MS Teams) have improved attendance greatly. But it is clear that a number of organisations have not returned to our meetings since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the only statutory body tasked with scrutinising the decommissioning progress and socioeconomic impact of the Dounreay and Vulcan sites, our Membership is vitally important in representing our Caithness and North Sutherland Community at a local, devolved and national level.

It is our stated ambition to have a membership that is both reflective of the community we serve, as well as actively engaged in the core of activities undertaken by the DSG (our public meetings, sub-groups and ad-hoc special interest meetings).

Although our terms of reference outline a provision that Membership is under annual review and that attendance must be considered when supporting ongoing Membership, we believe that the College is intrinsically linked to the Dounreay and Vulcan and that the organisation has a valuable contribution to make.

Given the recent merger to create UHI - North, West and Hebridies it would be greatly appreciated if designated attendees could be made known to the DSG Secretariat. The DSG understands that many of our Members are stretched and contribute to a number of groups and bodies across not only the Far North but further afield, and we are asking attendees to consider nominating a substitute within each organisation.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Sent electronically without signature

Clir Struan MackieDounreay Stakeholder Group Chairman