

Rolls-Royce – Submarines
Vulcan Business Operations Update: October 2024

It was a pleasure to meet with members of the DSG in Thurso on August 28th and I look forward to continuing a productive and open relationship with the group.

Rolls-Royce puts safety first and with no significant issues since my last input, it remains over four years since our last lost time injury on site. In addition, rates of both absence and attrition within the Rolls-Royce Vulcan team remain low.

There have been no material changes to our business priorities since my last update to the group. Our key operational priority is the safe and timely delivery of our current programmes in support of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Submarines Enterprise. We also continue to provide support to MOD in the review of the process, schedule and operating model options for the potential transfer of the Vulcan site decommissioning accountabilities to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). In a wider context, we continue to review what role the Vulcan team, and the skills and capabilities vested within it, can play in Rolls-Royce's response to the significant level of change and growth within UK (Defence and Civil) nuclear.

Rolls-Royce has recently launched recruitment for a number of incremental job roles on site (c.20 in number). This is in response to the needs of extant programmes in support of MOD, a desire to increase resilience in certain skills, and also demonstrates Rolls-Royce's commitment to the development of its skills base in Caithness. We have had a very positive market response to these opportunities and, at time of writing, the recruitment process is in full swing.

Our Rolls-Royce apprentice pipeline continues and remains fully populated with 17 apprentices in various stages of their training, including an increased number of five apprentices for the 2024 intake which started with us in August. We are well progressed with our planning for the 2025 intake and are looking to increase our numbers to 8 first year apprentices covering Mechanical, Electrical, Instrumentation and Design disciplines. This will represent the largest single intake of apprentices in the Vulcan site history.

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Director – Vulcan & IFM
Rolls-Royce Submarines Limited