



DSG(2025)C010

NDA Update for DSG

June 2025



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**NDA Stakeholder Update**

Please find below a brief update on main points of interest since the last meeting.

Government Update

Seth Kybird has been appointed as Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Nuclear Waste Services (NWS). He succeeds Corhyn Parr who has led NWS as CEO since its formation in 2022. Seth joins NWS on an 18-month secondment from Nuclear Transport Solutions (NTS).

While Seth is on secondment Ben Whittard, Chief Development Officer and Managing Director of Shipping and Solutions, and Ciara Middlehurst, Chief Operating Officer, will become joint NTS interim CEOs. Both have strong leadership track records, and a wealth of knowledge and experience gained from inside and outside the NDA group. They both know NTS well and are committed to driving the future success of the organisation.

Spending Review

The Government Spending Review process informs decisions on public spending. NDA group funding is made up of the funding we receive from Government and the income we generate. We have already communicated on NDA group funding for 2025/26 which at just over £4bn includes increased Government funding, demonstrating significant public investment in our nuclear sites and facilities though this will not be without challenges.

We recently submitted our spending review submission for 2026/27-2029/30 to our Government sponsoring department, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). This comprehensive submission outlines the NDA group's budgetary needs and plans. We expect Government will make its final decisions on public spending for the next few years in the summer, after which Government departments, including DESNZ, will receive their funding allocations. Subsequently, we will receive confirmation of our Government funding.

The national fiscal environment remains very challenging and, across Government, departments are being squeezed. While we are confident of sustained Government investment into our mission, when considered against inflation and our plans to accelerate our mission and drive growth, our overall funding will not be sufficient to cover all that we'd like to do across the NDA group. This underscores the importance of efficiency in our operations, aligning with the Government's drive for a more efficient public sector.

Despite funding challenges, we're focused on our nationally important mission to ensure the safe and efficient decommissioning of the UK's nuclear legacy, with much to



deliver, including a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF), which remains government's policy for the long-term storage solution for the most hazardous radioactive waste. Additionally, we are preparing for the transition of the Advanced Gas-Cooled Reactors (AGR) into our group for decommissioning, thereby expanding our responsibilities and scope. Our role in new nuclear initiatives remains important, highlighting our part in supporting the UK's energy security and sustainability goals.

Outreach activities

- The NDA has been commended on its commitment to transparency following a 2 day visit to West Cumbria on 7/8 April by the [NDA NGO forum](#). The visit was an excellent example of teamwork across NDA, Sellafield Sites and Nuclear Waste Services with Forum representatives from a range of NGOs shown around Sellafield site and the Low Level Waste Repository. The Forum had senior leaders from across NDA Group present to answer queries on a range of key topics.
- MSP members of the **CPG** visited CPX late March. Later in the day, the formal CPG was held in Annan – the first CPG to be held outside of the Scottish Parliament. The main topic was 'Ste End States'. The next CPG will be held at the Scottish Parliament on May 27th 2025.
- Co-Chair of the CPG Oliver Mundell MSP was a guest speaker **Decom Week 2025** in Aberdeen where he spoke about 'Widening the political conversation' about decommissioning in Scotland and the work of the CPG.
- The first full **SCCORS** meeting since the pandemic took place in Glasgow on May 7th with over 30 members attending both in person and on-line. There will be 2 meetings a year with the next taking place on November 12th 2025.

Engagement priorities for 2025

- The NDA celebrates its 20th anniversary this year and are planning a range of events. Today we have a video and timeline presentation to share with the SSG.
- Our review into the SSGs has concluded with an update to the **NDA Guidance to the SSGs** following discussions with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the National SSG Forum and a meeting with all SSG Chairs and Deputy Chairs. This recognises the value of the stakeholder voice in the local communities around our sites and how to address some of the challenges that face us as we move into the future.
- Preparation is underway for **Strategy V** which we expect to publish in March 2026. Our strategy document is published every 5 years and describes our



high-level approach to delivering our mission. Within that, we identify several critical enablers essential to the successful delivery of our mission including public and stakeholder engagement. It has now been agreed that the strategy will go out to consultation for a 12-week period from 7 July 2025 to 29 September 2025.

- **Festival of Politics** – Dounreay will feature as part of this year's 'Festival of Politics' with a panel discussing 'The Atomics – the story of Dounreay's people'. The event will be held on Wednesday August 20th, 4pm-5.15pm. Tickets for the general public will be available.

Publications, public service and policy updates

- On 10th March, we published our Draft **Business Plan** covering the years 2025 – 2028 for a six-week consultation period, which closed on 22nd April. The Draft Business Plan reflects our most recent Strategy, published in 2021, and sets out key activities and the progress expected across our sites during the next three years, in line with funding allocated by the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). The consultation was run in accordance with the criteria set out in the [Cabinet Office's Consultation principles guidelines](#).
- Once we have considered all the submissions the draft document, which can be found using the following link: [Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Draft Business Plan 2025 to 2028 for consultation - GOV.UK](#), will be amended and a final document published.
- In February 2025 the NDA published its **Nature Recovery Plan (NRP)** which can be found following [this link](#). Through its implementation we will help address the decline of biodiversity by conserving and restoring natural habitats and species within our control as well as supporting government aims and objectives for nature recovery. The NRP will be a living document, subject to periodic review and considering any new research, policy and guidance as they become available.
- We have recently published our **Gender Pay Gap** report for 2023-24. The NDA group are committed to creating great places to work and inclusive working environments. This includes ensuring we have female representation at all levels across our organisations and supporting women in their professional growth. This report summarises the gender pay gap for 2023/24 for the NDA group as a whole and within the individual organisations that make up the group. The report can be read [here](#).

Mission delivery



- The NDA Group welcomes the government's decision to immobilise the UK's inventory of civil separated plutonium at Sellafield. Immobilisation will put the material beyond reach, further mitigating the long-term safety and security risks associated with it. We will continue to progress research and development work to identify the preferred technology for immobilisation, converting the material to an even safer and more safer form ready for final disposal in a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).
- We are also funding a £5m Plutonium Ceramics Academic Hub at the Universities of Manchester and Sheffield. Over the next five years, the Hub will fund around 20 PhD students and two post-doctoral researchers, equipping them with the expertise to develop solutions and inform critical decisions on the safe management, storage and disposal of one of the world's largest civilian inventories of separated plutonium.

Thank you for taking the time to read our update. If you have any questions, please feed-back through the Secretariat or raise with the NDA official at the SSG meeting.



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