

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group Public Meeting, held at 19:00 on Wednesday 3 December 2025 via MS Teams.

Present:	Struan Mackie (SM)	DSG Chair
	David Alexander (DA)	DSG Vice-chair
	Gillian Coghill (GC)	Buldoo Residents Group
	Peter Faccenda (PF)	Focus North (DSG Socio economic subgroup vice chair)
	Eann Sinclair (ES)	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
	Christian Nicholson (CN)	NHS
	Niall Watson (NW)	Dounreay Trade Unions
	David Craig (DC)	Caithness West Community Council
	Trudy Morris (TM)	Chamber of Commerce
	Cllr Janet McEwan (JM)	The Highland Council
	Tor Justad (TJ)	HANP
	William McGillivray (WM)	Thurso Community Council
	Alan Scott (AS)	Co-opted member of the public
	Ken Nicol (KN)	Co-opted member of the public
	Ron Gunn (RG)	CHAT
	Cllr Michael Baird (MB)	The Highland Council
	Cllr Raymond Bremner (RB)	The Highland Council
Attending:	Dave Wilson (DW)	NRS Dounreay Managing Director
	Mac MacGill (MM)	NRS Dounreay EHSSQ Director
	David Calder (DCa)	NRS Head of Socio-economic and sustainability
	Gail Ross (GR)	NRS Dounreay Head of Communications and Stakeholder Relations
	Heather Hannam (HH)	NRS Dounreay Head of People
	Frederic Stalin (FS)	NRS Dounreay Portfolio and Support Director
	Alan Mackay (AM)	NDA Site Facing Team
	Cdr Ian Walker (IW)	MOD Vulcan
	Linda Buchan (LB)	SEPA
	James Bryson (JB)	DNSR
	Alex Pitsillos (AP)	ONR
	Govinder Sangha (GS)	ONR
	Tina Wrighton (TW)	NRS Dounreay Stakeholder and external relations manager
	Emma MacDonald (EM)	NRS Dounreay Communications Administrator

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

SM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The winter meetings are held via MS Teams due to regular adverse weather, members to decide at AGM if they should stay like this.

SM stated that it was David Wallace's last meeting before leaving the NDA. Thanks were given to David for his support over the last few years. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend.

SM declared his role as councillor for the Highland Council.

SM answered a question from the public about DSG membership and stated that any community group or organisation can put themselves forward to become part of the DSG.

2. APOLOGIES

The following apologies were received:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Roger Saxon | Site Restoration Subgroup chair |
| • David Broughton | Site Restoration Subgroup vice chair |
| • David Wallace | NDA |
| • John Deighan | Co-opted member of the public |
| • Cl Dave McIntosh | CNC |
| • Stewart Ballantine | SEPA |

3. DOUNREAY UPDATE

NDA Corporate: Alan Mackay reported:

Report was taken as read with a few points added.

Cross party group meeting on 10 December. This is going to be a hybrid meeting.

SCCORS update: They are planning to move group to 3 meetings per year instead of 2, with the next one in February 2026. Details from the previous meeting will be in the minutes.

DA stated that it is worth noting for all members that all of the NDA stakeholder leads are leaving before the end of the financial lead. DA feels like the DSG are in a position where they don't know what is happening and believes this should have been stated in the report.

AM stated that he isn't in a position to address the comment, but once the overall position to support the DSG is understood they will be updated in an appropriate manner. AM will feedback the comment.

SM gave clarity that they left under the voluntary exit scheme (MAVE).

NRS Dounreay: Dave Wilson reported:

The report was taken as read with a few updates.

So far Dounreay have delivered 11 out of 16 targets.

A redundant building near PFR has been demolished one month early and was one of the site's group key targets.

All group key targets due to be delivered before the end of the year have been completed.

Nearly 1,000 tons of material has been removed from a building on the site.

Storm Amy left the site with minimal damage. The lecture theatre roof suffered some damage.

The site is well advanced in planning for the next period which covers the next four years' worth of funding.

The site has another SEPA regulatory notice. This involves the unauthorised discharge of effluent through an unauthorised route. The site understands the actions needed to close it out in a timely manner.

The site had an ONR COMAH enforcement notice. In September, a closure position statement was sent to ONR which is being reviewed and will hopefully be closed out in the near future.

The information for the significant handling improvement notice was submitted in a timely manner and has since been closed out by ONR.

Police Scotland attended site to deliver four sessions of safe driver training. This was aimed at apprentices and college attendees. 45 people attended the sessions. Potential to roll it out to the wider site.

The site hosted its annual emergency demonstration exercise of the security arrangements on 24 September. The site gave an adequate demonstration. DW would like to give his thanks to all who participated the event.

NRS is part of the Mutually Agreed Voluntary Exit scheme. It is still open to Dounreay employees with applications closing on 10 December. Currently working

through a review process to work out which applicants can be accepted through the scheme.

The NRS wide safety culture survey has just been launched. DW is encouraging a high level of participation.

Continuing to evolve the delivery structure. Ring fencing the Shaft and Silo programme so that it can be given a major project push along.

Mick Moore, Site Services Director, is retiring at the end of the year. DW gave thanks to Mick for everything he has done for the site and hopes he enjoys his retirement.

Dounreay continues to invest in apprentices. Recently Fallon Campbell won the apprentice of the year award at the Engineering and Construction Industry Training Board development awards. Kate Thompson won Modern Apprentice of the Year at the Highlands and Islands apprenticeship awards. Kate Murray also attended the Highlands and Islands apprenticeship awards and was highly commended. Neave Anderson won the Sidney Black Memorial Engineering Award at the UHI awards. DW is very pleased for all the younger members of the workforce that do really well.

Additionally, the PFR engineers were highly commended at the IChemE Global awards. The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team got to the finals of the ECITB awards for all the work they have done. Dean Smith, one of the site's recent graduates got to the finals of the IChemE North of Scotland Young Engineer awards.

70th anniversary celebrations are still ongoing until the end of the year. DW thanked everyone who helped to get things arranged and participated in any of the events.

SM congratulated all the staff who won and made it to later parts of the awards.

DC thanked the site for their efforts in reporting the recent particle find. It was reported to the DSG the day it was found so he was able to put it forward to the wider community very early.

GC is pleased to see little damage after Storm Amy. She heard that the site had a very successful exercise and the staff and members excelled. GC sends her thanks to Mick Moore and wishes him well.

Questions were welcomed

TJ asked if Dounreay regards 63% of statutory surveys achieved and 10% of non-statutory surveys achieved an acceptable level and who decides how much monitoring takes place?

DW – The surveys are agreed with SEPA, many factors can affect the number of surveys.

LB – The beach monitoring programme is specified within the site's permit. Sometimes there isn't enough sand or gravel to monitor so the site must notify SEPA about this with photographic evidence. A large proportion of the surveys which are unable to be conducted are due to unavailable material.

SEPA: Linda Buchan reported:

The report was taken as read with some minor updates.

SEPA is currently restructuring. Dr Paul Dale, Radioactive Substances Unit Manager, has been appointed to the role of Chief Regulator and he took on this role on 1 December. As Chief Regulator, Dr Dale will be working closely with SEPA's regulatory teams including radioactive substances.

As previously reported, NRS had notified SEPA of the potential discharge of very low levels of radioactivity from a sump to the environment via the non-active drain system. Dounreay subsequently advised the discharge from the sump had been routed to the Low Active Drain.

SEPA's investigation of the circumstances concluded that NRS had contravened conditions of its EASR radioactive substances authorisation. In October, SEPA issued a Regulatory Notice to NRS that specifies the steps it is required to take. The steps relate to the management arrangements in place for the disposal of aqueous liquid waste. NRS is currently undertaking work to address the requirements of the notice.

Questions were welcomed

TJ asked if the chief regulator is a new post and if so, what will the role involve. LB noted that it is a new role and since he has just been appointed the company is still figuring out what areas the role will cover.

ONR: Govinder Sangha reported:

The report was taken as read with one update:

GS echoes DW comment around the improvement notice. There was an inspection in October to confirm compliance with the improvement notice for manual handling.

ONRs main focus is placing enhanced attention on the areas that have been identified as conventional health and safety, asset care and corporate governance arrangements.

Director of regulation was Paul Dicks and is now Shane Turner. Shane is a long-term employee and has valuable experience from reactors.

DA asked for a full definition on the last paragraph in the report under section 2.2.

GS stated that it had been agreed for a specialist inspector to come up and gain an insight to the improvements that have been carried out. ONR is content that there is nothing significant, however, there are shortfalls which need to be prioritised.

DA asked what the shortfalls are.

GS stated that they are centred around the substations, the maintenance of them and how they have been affected adversely by weather. Improvements have been made, and the level of concern has been reduced.

DW stated that the new board chair has already been to Dounreay and it is great to see him up so early in his tenure.

CNC: No attendance

Any questions/comments to secretariat.

GC gave her extended thanks to CI Paul Gilmartin for making progress with the Buldoo residents and that he has now handed back to DI Dave McIntosh.

4. MOD VULCAN

MOD Vulcan: Cdr Ian Walker reported:

The report was taken as read with a few updates.

Since the last report Vulcan has had no lost time or minor injuries. There has been one environmental event reported during routine maintenance, it was detergent being used to wash some filters and a small amount of this has inadvertently run into the clean drain. No further action is being taken.

Previously reported that the sewage flow meter was recording incorrectly. Meter has been recalibrated as a temporary solution. An email notification has also been installed so a notification will go to site when the overflow is triggered.

Site operations continue to schedule.

There was one DNSR reportable event since last meeting. This was due to a training shortfall which was identified during an external check.

Site conducted the annual spill exercise during the period and plans for following years training schedule are now being considered.

The old telephone system had ceased, and a new virtual operator is being used in its place.

DNSR conducted two inspections on site which were assessed satisfactory.

ONR conducted a CDM inspection which identified some issues with the arrangements and discussions are ongoing with ONR on how to resolve these issues.

Questions were welcomed

TJ asked about Vulcan transferring drums containing solid Low-Level Waste (LLW) to Dounreay with 71 drums being transferred during the last reporting period. Will this waste be going to the Dounreay LLW vaults?

A formal response from Laura Kerr: Yes, all Vulcan drums are processed through our WRACS facility and disposed of in the LLW Disposal Facility.

DNSR: James Bryson reported:

Report was taken as read with one point being made.

The previous DNSR head David Langbridge passed away unexpectedly which is a very sad loss for all.

JB welcomed any questions

TJ asked if there are going to be changes in the DNSR position as a regulator.

JB said this information can be found on the .GOV website.

SEPA: Linda Buchan reported:

No updates and no questions were asked.

ONR: AP reported:

The report was taken as read with one update.

There was an inspection on construction (design management) regulations which identified shortfalls and is currently going through their governance process.

IW clarified that there are not any new buildings going up, it is cladding replacement and roof replacements etc. It is just maintenance of existing buildings.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

SM noted the minutes of the last public meeting (**DSG/PM(2025)M002**) held on 17 September 2025 had been circulated to members in advance. He invited members to raise any issues from the minutes. No issues were raised. The minutes were proposed by DA seconded by DC.

The minutes of the DSG socio economic subgroup (**DSG/SESG(2025)M003**) held on 8 October were endorsed by the group proposed by DA and seconded by GC.

The minutes of the DSG site restoration subgroup (**DSG/SRSG(2025)M003**) held on 8 October were endorsed by the group, proposed by SM and seconded by GC.

6. STATUS OF ACTIONS

The status of actions was taken as read.

TW covered the first three new actions:

DSG/BM(2025)M011/A001: SM to arrange for a Highland Council presentation on socio-economic funding at next socio-ec subgroup (January 2026) – in hand

DSG/BM(2025)M011/A002: Code of conduct and declaration of interests to be formally documented and endorsed in the DSG Terms of Reference – raised at last business meeting and has come out of the NDA SSG review.

DSG/BM(2025)M011/A003: DSG and Sellafeld SSGs to collaborate more closely – discussed at last business meeting and would be beneficial for both groups.

Others are ongoing and will be ratified at next subgroup.

SM gave an update on the road traffic management group. There will be an in-depth presentation given to the members of the socio economic subgroup. It is in hand and hopes to see progress in the coming weeks.

A discussion then followed around the roads group and driving to and from site.

DC asked for clarification on action DSG/SRSG(2025)M03/A02. TW stated that the action will be taken forward but doesn't need to remain an open action.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

TJ stated that it was very interesting to read the Focus North and CNSF report and socio ec report.

GC noted that the Peatland restoration meeting was exceedingly interesting. Mentioned Focus North very positively. PF added that they have an intern that RSPB took on to look at Petland Restoration as a restoration officer. They had 140 applicants, 18 of which were locals. It is a real interest to people in the area.

WM added that they had a presentation about the proposed workers village at one of their Community Council meetings and another on the Highland Council point of delivery and investment plan. Both were very interesting and there is definitely going to be challenging times ahead. A discussion then followed.

SM updated the observers and regulators about this being his last meeting as chair. He gave his thanks to all who have contributed to the DSG.

TM asked RB for any updates on the Wick flights. RB stated that it is currently in a legal standstill period. It is moving as quick as possible. Hopeful that the period will come to an end soon and hoping it will be good news. A conversation then followed.

8. CLOSE

SM thanked everyone for their input and formally closed the meeting.

Struan Mackie
DSG chair

3 December 2025

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

There were no formal actions arising from this meeting.