

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group Public Meeting, held at 19:00 on Wednesday 18 March 2026.

Present:	David Alexander (DA)	DSG Chair
	Gillian Coghill (GC)	DSG Vice-chair
	Peter Faccenda (PF)	Focus North
	Christian Nicholson (CN)	NHS
	David Broughton (DB)	Co-opted member of the public
	Niall Watson (NW)	Dounreay Trade Unions
	David Craig (DC)	Caithness West Community Council
	Cllr Janet McEwan (JM)	The Highland Council
	William McGillivray (WM)	Thurso Community Council
	Alan Scott (AS)	DSG SRSG chair
	Ken Nicol (KN)	Co-opted member of the public
	John Deighan (JD)	Co-opted member of the public
	Ron Gunn (RG)	CHAT
	Cllr Raymond Bremner (RB)	The Highland Council
	Cllr Struan Mackie (SM)	The Highland Council
	Marie Cuthbert (MC)	NHS
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

Frederic Stalin (FS)	NRS Dounreay Portfolio and Support Director
Alan Mackay (AM)	NDA Site Facing Team
Diane Hamilton (DH)②	Scottish Government
Cl Dave McIntosh (DM)	CNC
Cdr Ian Walker (IW)	MOD Vulcan
Stewart Ballantine (SB)	SEPA
James Bryson (JB)	DNSR
Alex Pitsillos (AP)	ONR
Govinder Sangha (GS)	ONR
Tina Wrighton (TW)	NRS Dounreay Stakeholder and External Relations manager
Ferne Mill (FM)	NRS Dounreay Communications administrator

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

DA welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He noted the change in chair and vice chair and introduced himself as chair and GC as vice chair.

DA noted AS was voted in as SRSG chair and GC as SESG chair.

DA thanked SM for his work in DSG over the last few years.

2. APOLOGIES

The following apologies were received:

- Roger Saxon
- Cllr Michael Baird
- Tor Justad

- Dr Cllr Stephen Clackson
- Brian Mutch
- Debbie Miller
- Trudy Morris
- Sandy Mackie
- Cllr Matthew Reiss
- Donna Chambers

3. DOUNREAY UPDATE

NDA Corporate: Alan Mackay reported:

Report was taken as read.

AM noted the NDA stakeholder team is changing post MAVE but the NDA will still attend Dounreay's stakeholder group meetings. The NDA reorganisation is ongoing and will be done by end of year.

AM noted the business plan was posted – [NDA Business Plan 2026-29 - for gov.uk.pdf](#)
DA welcomed any questions.

No questions were raised.

NRS Dounreay: Dave Wilson reported:

The report was taken as read with a few updates.

DW thanked all the support services over the festive/winter period with the weather causing challenges for the site.

Injuries have been noted in the report, but an additional slip has occurred which has been followed up with communications surrounding slips, trips and falls and a focus continues on avoiding these.

Human performance training is being rolled out, with trainers being trained on site.

Site continues to work with regulators, working to move out of enhanced regulatory attention from ONR.

Working with SEPA to face challenges and legacy issues.

DW noted the positive local press coverage of site successes.

Site is on target to hit all its targets.

MAVE has taken place, roughly 22 roles will go and around 70 people will be leaving the business, some posts will be back filled. The site is in the process of capturing knowledge.

The TUPE process for decom operatives is progressing well and will take place 1 April.

Trade unions are involved in awarding voluntary appointments; a ballet will be held in the near future regarding this.

Dounreay people have been winning and commended at many awards recently.

The socio economic spend is going to exceed last year's spend; roughly £1.2 million has been fed back to the community this year.

Apprentice and graduate recruitment has started.

AGRs are being brought into NRS at the end of the month.

Questions were welcomed.

JD asked about remote working at Dounreay and how this is affecting socio economics - what are these people bringing that you can't recruit in the area. DW replied saying it would be ideal to have local people trained but some roles require knowledge asap that can't be found within the area locally at that time. It is not realistic. Happy to work with stakeholder groups and the Chamber to look at solutions. Mac MacGill added there are also people who have started in Dounreay and been supported to do remote working. . A discussion followed.

DB asked about the multi-year funding and if there are major contracts in place for over 4/5 years. DW said yes, there is a governance process to allow for this commitment.

JM asked who Dounreay thinks is responsible for finding housing for the people coming up here to do work. DW said Dounreay would like to work in partnership with many different agencies to try and support the idea of rentals, but this is a broad project, and everyone needs to work together.

A discussion followed regarding housing and working arrangements.

SM asked DC for a socio-economic workforce strategy. DW and DCa explained this strategy is not yet ready to be provided but early engagement could be considered. A discussion followed around the site's socio-economic sustainability plan.

Discussions continued following these questions and site future plans.

There were no further questions.

SEPA: Stewart Ballantine reported:

The report was taken as read with some updates.

Regulatory notice for the carbon bed filter has successfully met with the first 3 requirements. This is continuing to be engaged.

Regulatory notice on D1401 sump - the first milestone is on track to be met.

A compliance inspection took place; the site was compliant with EASR.

There were no questions.

ONR: Govinder Sangha reported:

The report was taken as read.

Engagement is continuing with Dounreay - challenge has been provided and engagement is all positive.

DA asked about safety leadership and what it involves, GS said it is evidenced then scored and regular engagement is happening on site to ensure leadership measures are in place for the site to remain safe. DW said shortfalls occurred during a time of change and things are in place to get the site back where it needs to be.

SM asked what the new sites structure looks like for ONR - is there recruitment happening across ONR for specialists? GS said there was pre-empted recruitment and there are no issues to perform these engagements/activities.

There were no further questions.

CNC:

Dave McIntosh provided a verbal report.

The weather proved a challenge for CNC over the festive period but the expected service was provided to Dounreay with no regulatory shortfalls.

Recruitment is ongoing. There are 6 candidates starting a course in April with the start of the course being done at Dounreay. 5 of these recruits are from The Highlands.

There are 80 people within the recruitment pipeline.

Relocation support is being offered to people relocating to the area.

DM thanked CI Paul Gilmartin for being his replacement while on secondment.

Lynsay Hernandez is moving to a new role with the number of Superintendents going down and DM is now in a lead role.

RG noted the CNC supported Police Scotland with an incident in Wick and thanked them for their service.

There were no further questions.

4. MOD VULCAN

MOD Vulcan: Cdr Ian Walker reported:

The report was taken as read.

IW thanked SM.

Since the previous subgroup the site has had 2 minor injuries, both dealt with by first aid and immediately returning to work.

2 environmental events occurred, a small amount of fuel leaked. One from a contractor vehicle. The other from a member of staff filling up in the carpark and then spread by rain. Both reported to SEPA. No visible sign of oil present in the drains.

The sewage flow meter is reading correctly.

Replace acronyms here - PCBs were mentioned in the last meeting having sought SME advice there is no legal requirement for these be removed as they are solid, not liquid.

Operations continue as scheduled, no events reported to ONR or DNSR.

Lonestar 2026 preparation is commencing, the exercise will take place in June.

DNSR have been on site to do a compliance inspection, there were no immediate concerns but a report to follow.

ONR have been on site for a meeting with site safety reps. The site is on track to complete the arrangements for CDM in the agreed timescale.

Site continues with hazard reduction programme.

There were no questions.

DNSR: James Bryson reported:

The report was taken as read.

Nothing to add.

No questions were raised.

SEPA: Stewart Ballantine reported:

Nothing further to report.

No questions were raised.

ONR:

A CDM inspection took place, ONR are continuing to engage with the site.

Nothing further to report.

No questions.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

DA noted the minutes of the last public meeting (**DSG/PM(2025)M003**) held in December 2025 had been circulated to members in advance. He invited members to raise any issues from the minutes. The minutes were proposed by DC seconded by GC. A minor change was noted on page 2 of the minutes which has been updated.

The minutes of the DSG socio economic subgroup (**DSG/SESG(2026)M004**) held in January were endorsed by the group proposed by DA and seconded by PF.

The minutes of the DSG site restoration subgroup (**DSG/SRSG(2026)M004**) held in January were endorsed by the group, proposed by DA and seconded by GC.

There were minor amendments suggested to the minutes which have been made and ratified before issue

6. STATUS OF ACTIONS

The status of actions was taken as read.

DSG/SESG(2026)M004/A01: Magnus to arrange a meeting with Alan Scott and reps from local businesses.

Alan highlighted that local companies can't compete with Dounreay's terms and conditions. A meeting to take place with Alan and his representatives from the local business base – discussions have taken place and a meeting will be arranged once challenges with travel are over.

This action is ongoing.

DSG/SRSG(2025)M03/A03: Following the RTC on 7 October - SM to bring together representatives from HC, NRS, Police Scotland, Bulldoo, Vulcan and DSG to discuss road improvement options.

This action is ongoing.

DC stated he is concerned on the lack of action in regard to the RTC meetings. SM updated on the HC engagement for this meeting and that the involvement of Malcom MacLeod is a promising sign. GC added that it is important Vulcan is part of this conversation also.

NW said even as someone familiar with the road it can be confusing. He added the road is in a poor condition meaning people avoiding potholes could lead to head on collisions. Raymond Bremner said meetings have taken place monthly to update on road damage and this road is a priority. A discussion followed.

7. Correspondence

There has been no correspondence since the last meeting.

8. AOB

SM thanked the regulators and observers for their work during his term as chair.

AS asked if AMEY had been provided a new contract to deal with NRS sites and will this affect local supply.

DW said the existing workforce will be TUPE'd into AMEY and it won't affect our inhouse delivery team. The local supply chain and AMEY are hoping to work together.

MC thanked Dounreay and Vulcan for their support during the bad weather and allowing services to continue in the county.

A discussion followed with members and the public regarding Highland Council issues.

9. CLOSE

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

David Alexander

DSG chair

18 March 2026

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

No formal actions arose from this meeting.

**DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SOCIO ECONOMIC SUB GROUP**

Minutes of the DSG Socio Economic subgroup meeting held on Wednesday 22 April 2026 at 1330 hours in the Orlig meeting room, Dounreay public information office and Microsoft Teams.

Present:	Gillian Coghill (GC)	Buldoo Residents Group, SESG Chair
	Peter Faccenda (PF)	Programme Manager, Focus North, SESG Vice Chair (voted in at this meeting)
	David Alexander (DA)	Thurso and Wick Trades Council, DSG Chair (online)
	Cllr Struan Mackie (SM)	Highland Council (online)
	Ron Gunn (RG)	CHAT
	David Broughton (DB)	DSG Co-opted member of the public
	Alan Scott (AS)	DSG Co-opted member of the public
	Sandy Mackie (SM)	DSG Co-opted member of the public
	Ken Nicol (KN)	DSG Co-opted member of the public
	Blair McGeachin (BM)	Women in Nuclear

In addition:

Magnus Davidson (MD)	Socio Economics Manager, NRS Dounreay
Hannah Sutherland (HS)	Senior Socio Economics Administrator, NRS Dounreay
Tina Wrighton (TW)	Stakeholder & External Relations Manager, NRS Dounreay
Andrew Harper (AH)	Socio Economics Manager, NDA (online)

MINUTES**1. WELCOME**

Gillian Coghill welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the presence of new attendees.

Introductions were made to Andrew Harper, Socio Economics Manager at NDA.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

David Calder (DC)	Head of Socio Economics, NRS
John Deighan (JD)	DSG Co-opted member of the public
Roger Saxon (RS)	DSG Site Restoration Subgroup Vice Chair
Trudy Morris (TM)	Chief Executive, North Highland Chamber of Commerce
Jeremy Gilmour (JG)	Head of Community & Economic Development, NDA

Cllr Janet McEwan (JM)	Highland Council
Cllr Raymond Bremner (RB)	Highland Council
Donna Chambers (DCh)	Deputy Chief Executive, Caithness Chamber of Commerce
Lauren Mackay (LM)	Women in Nuclear
Eann Sinclair (ES)	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Debbie Miller (DM)	UHI North, West, and Hebrides
Ryan Mclean (RM)	Scrabster Harbour Trust

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

GC noted that the minutes of the previous meeting, approved at the public meeting in December 2025, were taken as read.

No declarations of conflict of interest were made.

GC thanked Roger Saxon for his contribution and valued input as a member of the Socio Economic subgroup.

Peter Faccenda was nominated as DSG Socio Economic Subgroup Vice-Chair. Proposed by Alan Scott and seconded by Ron Gunn. Peter Faccenda accepted the nomination.

4. ACTIONS

DSG/SESG(2026)M004/A01 – Magnus Davidson informed members that the meeting regarding the supply chain was in the process of being rescheduled due to diary constraints of key attendees.

DSG/SRSG(2025)M03/A03 – GC reported on a meeting with representatives from HC, NRS, Police Scotland, Buldoo, Vulcan, and DSG noting disappointment with the level of input from Highland Council. GC advised that the Council uses a risk matrix, informed by Police Scotland accident data, to assess road and slipway danger; however, accidents reported locally do not appear to have been logged. SM is speaking with others who have privately funded similar assessments.

TW provided an update from discussions on Dounreay installed cameras with the Roads Officer, noting that they had been helpful and that indicative costs for road safety cameras had been received. Installation will need to be coordinated with Highland Council, who will lead.

GC relayed feedback from Buldoo residents that the spacing of bollards is contributing to accidents. JD asked who analyses the camera data; TW confirmed this is undertaken by Highland Council, with reports provided to Dounreay and Vulcan. Cameras monitor driver behaviour between 07:00–19:00, equating to 84 hours of footage, and engagement with site unions will be required.

5. DOUNREAY COMMUNITY FUND REQUESTS

Magnus Davidson presented the funding applications, advising members on scoring and his recommended funding allocations. Members then discussed each DCF application.

6. DOUNREAY SOCIO ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

GC invited MD to provide key highlights from the paper.

Members were advised of a restructure within NRS, with David Calder appointed Head of Socio Economics (NRS-wide) and Alan Kraling appointed Head of Sustainability (NRS-wide).

The Dounreay Socio Economic Annual Review has been published. Members noted the importance of the Highland Investment Plan for the local area. The Economic Impact Study, undertaken by the NDA and PwC, has concluded and reflects strong Dounreay impact; publication is expected once the pre-election period ends.

Grant funding for the last quarter was confirmed as complete. For full year 2025/26 £930k was awarded through Dounreay funds, with additional NDA funding bringing the total to £1.2m. RG queried public awareness of this funding; MD advised that a new communications initiative will focus on sharing project impact stories.

Struan Mackie asked about budgets for the current financial year; MD advised an update will be circulated when finalised. Comparison with other NRS sites was discussed, with MD highlighting increasing levels of Dounreay spend over recent years. PF highlighted the importance of focussed socio-economic priorities as funding environments become more pressurised.

Procurement spend for 2025/26 was discussed. Local Caithness spend has seen a slight decrease year on year, although work is currently being taken to understand the drivers it is thought that it is largely due to the completion of major Caithness resourced projects. MD will return with confirmed figures from Commercial.

Members discussed the TUPE of 68 staff from the supply chain into Dounreay roles, resulting in an overall increase in headcount. AS noted potential negative impacts on the taxpayer. KN asked about MAVE and backfilling arrangements with GC highlighting that some employees are required to remain until December to train successors. Further discussion followed on MAVE with it being agreed to raise in the evening site restoration meeting.

A record intake of 19 graduates was confirmed. Apprentice offers have been issued. AS asked about local graduate representation; MD confirmed recruitment is undertaken on an open basis, with both local and non-local candidates accepting offers. He highlighted the benefits of both cohorts accepting positions at Dounreay.

STEM activities were recognised, including the contributions of apprentices and STEM ambassadors. Annual STEM activity spend is £14k this year which is slightly below what was expected but was in part due to usual end of year payments falling into the next financial year.

DCF spend exceeded the annual budget, however additional commitments were covered from the 2024/25 financial year underspend.

MD noted this would be James Gunn's final heritage update and thanked him for his contributions over the years.

7. FOCUS NORTH UPDATE

GC invited PF to provide key highlights from the paper.

PF advised that the POD development including a new high school build is due for completion in 2030/31, alongside plans for a lifelong learning campus at the college. Dounreay off-site accommodation and regional housing pressures were discussed. PF noted that housing delivery in Caithness and Sutherland remains low (approximately 30–40 homes per year), creating challenges for incoming workers. SSEN has identified two to three potential housing projects, in addition to the worker-camp development.

An update on Wick Airport was provided, confirming the current contract extension runs until August, bridging the end of the existing PSO and the start of a new arrangement. PF confirmed fuel cost increases have resulted in an approximate £7 increase per seat. The procurement process for a new provider is underway, with bids received.

Skills and talent attraction activity continues, focusing on engaging younger people and raising awareness of future local employment opportunities. Work is ongoing with Dee Bleakley on confidence-building workshops, informed by positive survey feedback. Educational initiatives include a Minecraft-based programme delivered with Thurso and Wick High Schools, enabling pupils to design towns they would like to see in the region.

PF highlighted the Powering Futures Level 6 qualification, exploring opportunities in power, renewables, and future industries in Caithness and North Sutherland, with a focus on employability skills. Work experience opportunities remain under discussion.

Communications activity includes exhibiting at All-Energy in Glasgow on 13–14 May, marking the first presence in several years. The revised Live North website has launched to support inward attraction by providing information on jobs, schools, and local areas.

KN asked about the recent workshop regarding the POD and proposals for including a swimming pool within the new high school campus. RG noted lessons learned from Wick's experience. PF confirmed a consultation process was taking place, with RN advising that public feedback favoured retaining the existing pool location.

A wider discussion followed on housing needs and Highland Council engagement. MD advised he is closely involved in forecasting incoming workforce numbers for Dounreay and Focus North, noting opportunities for non-permanent roles to be filled by local residents. Members were advised that Murphy's is exploring accommodation options for workers over multiple years, including potential development of up to 100 homes. Further discussion followed on housing delivery and developers.

8. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING

No new correspondence. New Dounreay Shaft and Silo Project video was shown to members.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

RG highlighted the establishment of a new organisation, Patient Safety Commission, and advised that it holds a seat on the task force reviewing maternity services in Caithness. The organisation is open to engaging with community members and is considering care-at-home services across all settings.

RG noted that engagement has taken place with patients prior to meetings with NHS Highland. PF asked about the process, and RG confirmed the organisation is visiting all NHS areas, with a particular focus on rural communities.

AS noted that cement production accounts for approximately 8% of global carbon emissions and asked whether Dounreay uses low-carbon concrete. MD confirmed that Dounreay uses A rated concrete from a carbon perspective with one of the lowest carbon concrete mixes available that meet British Standards.

GC informed the members of a recent presentation provided by a new supplier Amey of which members of the DSG were involved.

MD informed members that Amey have won a large contract across NRS with a smaller component for Dounreay related to catering and cleaning services. Existing staff will be TUPEd from existing suppliers to Amey.

10. CLOSE

There being no further business Gillian Coghill thanked everyone for their input and formally closed the meeting.

Gillian Coghill

DSG Socio Economic Sub Group Chair

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

DSG/SESG(2026)M004/A01: MD to arrange a meeting with AS and reps from local businesses - AS highlighted that local companies can't compete with Dounreay's terms and conditions. A meeting to take place with AS and representatives from the local business base. UPDATE: Initial discussions have taken place – face to face meeting being rescheduled to include all parties.

DSG/SRSG(2025)M03/A03: Following the RTC on 7 October - SM to bring together representatives from Highland Council, NRS, Police Scotland, Buldoo Residents, Vulcan and DSG to discuss road improvement options - Meeting held on 14 April – way forward agreed to carry out independent audit of junction, install cameras at junctions for Dounreay and Vulcan and driver behaviour training offered – HC led – NRS budget granted.

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

DSG/SRSG(2026)M001

SITE RESTORATION SUBGROUP

Minutes of the DSG Site Restoration subgroup meeting held on Wednesday 22 April 2026 at 19:00 in the Ormlie hub, Thurso and via MS Teams.

Present:	Alan Scott (AS)	DSG Site Restoration Subgroup chair
	David Broughton (DB)	Site Restoration subgroup vice chair
	Gillian Coghill (GC)	Buldoo Residents Group chair (SESG chair)
	Niall Watson (NW)	NRS Dounreay Trade Unions
	Christian Nicolson (CN)	NHS
	David Craig (DC)	Caithness West Community Council
	Tor Justad (TJ)	HANP
	William McGillivray (WM)	Thurso Community Council
	Ken Nicol (KN)	DSG co-opted member of the public

In attendance:

Alex Pitsillos (AP)	ONR
Cdr Ian Walker (IW)	MOD Vulcan
Ferne Mill (FM)	NRS Dounreay
Tina Wrighton (TW)	NRS Dounreay
Govinder Sangha (GS)	ONR (Dounreay)
Stewart Ballantine (SB)	SEPA
Frederic Stalin (FS)	NRS Dounreay
CI Dave McIntosh (DM)	CNC
James Bryson (JB)	DNSR

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

AS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He noted this was his first meeting as chair and thanked those for voting him in.

AS also thanked Roger Saxon for his work during his term as chair.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

- David Alexander DSG chair
- Cllr Dr Stephen Clackson Orkney Islands Council
- John Deighan Co-opted member of the public
- Cllr Michael Baird Highland Council
- Cllr Raymond Bremner Highland Council

3. Election of vice chair

Gillian Coghill proposed David Broughton as vice chair of the subgroup, David Craig seconded this. There were no other nominations.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes from the last meeting held in October were approved at the public meeting in March. There were no changes to the minutes.

5. ACTION STATUS

DSG/SESG(2026)M04/A01: Magnus to arrange a meeting with Alan Scott and reps from local businesses.

Alan highlighted that local companies can't compete with Dounreay's terms and conditions.

A meeting to take place with Alan and his representatives from the local

business base – discussions have taken place – meeting being rescheduled to include all parties.

DSG/SRSG(2025)M03/A03: Following the RTC on 7 October - Meeting held on 14 April – way forward agreed to carry out independent audit of junction, install cameras at junctions for Dounreay and Vulcan and driver behaviour training offered – HC led – NRS budget granted.

TW noted this action is ongoing and still to be formally approved by all necessary parties. NW added the unions do not need to approve this but just need to be informed of it happening.

6. DOUNREAY UPDATE

Dounreay: FS reported

There has been lots of progress on the targets, showing commitment to delivery, this has been a big success.

Progress is being made to better ongoing enforcement notices.

The site is developing a 5-year plan for assets and then will develop a long-term asset plan. Programme managers are in place to push this.

Asset conditions hit all the targets.

There is a big emphasis on site to focus on pre-job thinking and ensuring we're not falling into error traps to improve performance

There are 2 regulatory notices with ONR and 2 with SEPA.

Questions were raised:

DC noted the temporary access restriction on the north side of Sandside beach and asked what this means for monitoring. SB confirmed that SEPA are aware of this. It was noted monitoring will not take place while the restriction is in place but will continue the larger Sandside beach.

KN asked about the Dounreay and Vulcan Highland Council offsite emergency plan consequences report on their website that was dated 2022 and should be updated every 3 years. Vulcan confirmed they have updated theirs within the last 3 years and HC and ONR have been notified on their side. FS took an action to confirm if this has been completed by Dounreay and to check the website.

DSG/SRSG(2026)M01/A01: Review status of Highland Council offsite emergency plan consequence report – not updated on website since 2022:

Response received from Emergency Arrangements: Plan dated 2025 on the website - [dounreay-and-vulcan-nrte-offsite-emergency-plan](#)

Issue 8.1 March 2025 was uploaded when the new HC website was launched in February 2026. It will next be updated in 2027.

KN asked about gaps created by MAVE and the costs associated with MAVE. FS explained this process was reviewed, it was mutually agreed, no one was let go that the site required. FS said there is an NRS wide business case, and as such he was unsure whether these costs could be advised to the DSG. A discussion followed regarding MAVE and associated costs.

DB asked about DCP store 2 extensions and asked if the product being stored is 500L cemented drums and if there is a contract for these. FS replied yes there is.

TJ asked about fuel element transfer equipment repair; FS said the operation will be done with restart in May, it is handling equipment which needs maintenance.

AS mentioned he would like to review the way the report is produced. FS noted this is something that could happen at a business meeting. A discussion followed and a meeting has been arranged.

AS thanked FS for his update.

SEPA: SB reported

Recruitment is being undertaken to recruit an additional Dounreay inspector and an additional inspector to support the regulation of all sites. New SEPA member in Thurso.

Regulatory notices ongoing but progressing well; the next action specified in the carbon bed filter notice is not due for completion for an extended period. The Notice issued following the D1401 sump issue has been completed by NRS and SEPA will review the supporting evidence when onsite in mid-May.

SB had nothing further to cover out with his report.

TJ asked what SEPA engagement is with Shaft and Silo, SB explained the site lead inspector engages with the team on how they plan to meet the requirements of the EASR permit.

AS thanked SB.

ONR: GS reported

There has been 1 reportable incident of a contractor falling on site.

ONR continue engagement to return the site to routine attention levels.

Nothing further to report.

No questions were raised.

AS thanked GS.

CNC: DM reported

The report was taken as read.

The CNC are engaging with their new points of contact.

DM welcomed any questions.

AS noted, it was great to see the training starting in Caithness and DM gave a brief update on recruitment.

TJ asked if there was firearms training in Scotland, DM said this used to be the case but there is no capacity in Caithness to run this.

A discussion followed around housing issues CNC face and attracting people to the area.

AS thanked DM for his update.

7. VULCAN UPDATE

MOD Vulcan: IW reported

The report was taken as read.

Only one health and safety incident being a bump on the head, this was dealt with and no treatment was required.

No update on environmental issues other than the previously reported spills. SEPA attended site on 31 March to discuss historical records.

Regulatory issues are being worked on to be closed out.

ONR inspections showed some shortfalls for CDM.

Vulcan are supporting several charity events this year.

TJ and IW discussed the future workings of the Vulcan site.

There were no further questions raised.

AS thanked IW.

Rolls Royce:

No one was in attendance from Rolls Royce.

Any questions will be put through the secretariat.

SEPA: SB reported

An inspection had taken place; SEPA saw no issues on site.

AS thanked SB for his update.

ONR: AP reported

ONR had limited interactions with the site so had nothing to raise.

AS thanked AP for her update.

DNSR: JB reported

The report was taken as read.

AS thanked JB

8. Shaft and Silo video

A brief video was shown in relation to the Shaft and Silo project, this will be sent to all members when possible.

9. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING

Papers showing correspondence since the last meeting were provided.

An initial discussion has been set up with the chair and vice chair of both stakeholder groups from DSG and West Cumbria SSG to hopefully find a way of collaborating in the future.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

AMEY contractors met with members of the stakeholder group. GC gave an update on this. FS said the core work for AMEY is to TUPE over cleaning and catering contracts. There was an emphasis on working with the local supply chain on future contracts. A discussion followed around this.

The next site visit proposal was discussed at the previous business meeting, the group has decided they would like to speak to the staff, and the group will be in touch with the trade unions to arrange this. A date has now been arranged.

DC raised the Elders group proposal. DC was informed there is a meeting in diaries to continue engagement on this.

TW thanked everyone for their vigilance during a cyber threat that attacked the DSG members.

AS closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their input.

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

DSG/SRSG(2026)M01/A01: Review status of Highland Council offsite emergency plan – not updated on website since 2022

Alan Scott

Site Restoration subgroup chair

22 April 2026



NDA Update for
Dounreay Stakeholder
Group
June 2026



Contents

1.0 NDA Stakeholder Update June 2026

**NDA Stakeholder Update**

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

Change of NDA Chair

Peter Hill CBE has stepped down from his role as NDA Chair to focus on his other existing and potential future board roles.

This follows a successful period involving significant achievements including reshaping the NDA Board, progressing improvements in the group's governance arrangements, leading the NDA during the 2024/25 Spending Review when it received the largest grant settlement in the group's history, delivering the 2025/26 financial year with a much improved safety record and ensuring the group is ready to deliver its refreshed strategy.

Catriona Schmolke CBE has been appointed as Interim Chair and The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) will launch a competitive external search process to find Peter's successor.

NDA Review

The Independent Review of the NDA commissioned by DESNZ and led by Dr Tim Stone CBE is now well underway.

The initial focus has been on governance and the review is now looking at a wide range of topics including projects and programmes, strategy and funding. The review team has enjoyed visits to Dounreay, Harwell and Dungeness sites and is visiting Sellafield site this week.

The review represents an opportunity to ensure the NDA continues to deliver safely, effectively, and transparently on our mission to clean up the UK's civil nuclear legacy.

Engagement priorities

The NDA group gave its first House of Lords Briefing about our mission and contribution to the UK's economy. NDA Group CEO David Peattie, Sellafield CEO Euan Hutton and Nuclear Waste Service CEO Seth Kybrid spoke at the briefing, which was hosted by Lord McNicol, Chair of the Nuclear Industry Association.

Our stakeholder survey has now closed, receiving about 150 responses. It launched in February and ran for four weeks. It looked broadly at three key measures: openness and transparency, leadership and trust. We are digesting the full set of feedback and will share results with our stakeholders in due course.



Our annual meeting and dinner between SSG chairs and group CEOs will be held in Manchester next week on June 9 and 10.

Publication updates

The latest NDA Business Plan has been published [NDA Business Plan 2026 to 2029 - GOV.UK](#)

An Economic Impact Assessment of NDA Sites has been published [Economic Impact Assessment of NDA Sites - GOV.UK](#) The report sets out the economic contribution of NDA group sites and offices to communities and the country. Key findings include:

- NDA sites contribute c. £4.1bn of value to the national economy, making up approximately 0.2% of UK economic activity.
- 56,000 jobs are created by our activities, directly and indirectly.
- The sites with the highest dependency are Dounreay, Sellafield and Wylfa.

Innovation and delivery milestones

Research, development and innovation to assess plutonium immobilisation technologies is progressing well. We are working with United Kingdom National Nuclear Laboratory (UKNNL), Nuclear Waste Services (NWS), Orano and Sellafield Ltd, to identify the technology to convert the material into a highly durable ceramic form.

A key contract has been placed to support the continued safe storage of plutonium as the UK works toward the permanent disposal of its plutonium legacy. LTi Metaltech Ltd, a UK fabrication and welding specialist, has secured a £45m contract to supply containment products for the Sellafield Product and Residue Store Retreatment Plant (SRP) on the Sellafield site.

Sellafield Ltd and Nuclear Transport Solutions (NTS) are preparing for the third and final return of high level waste (HLW) from the UK to Germany. The vitrified residues arise from reprocessing spent fuel originally used by German utilities. The shipment fulfils international contracts and delivers UK Government policy, with all movements carried out in line with national and international regulatory requirements.

Hunterston B nuclear power station in North Ayrshire has transferred ownership from EDF to the NDA for decommissioning by Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS). Government has estimated that up to £1bn of savings can be made from transfer of all seven advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR) power stations. Hinkley Point B in Somerset is due to transfer later in 2026.



NTS has received a Letter of Intent from an international customer indicating they intend to purchase Pegasus packages, designed to move high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU). The fuel is required for many small modular and advanced modular reactors, marking a significant milestone for the next generation fuel logistics market.

NWS and Sellafield Ltd have introduced a Standard Waste Container Catalogue, defining for the first time, a suite of approved radioactive waste container designs across differing waste activity levels. This standardised approach will deliver long term safety, operational and cost benefits across the estate, helping to avoid future complex repackaging.

Sellafield's Remote Technologies Group has used a contamination swabbing tool for quadruped robots, developed through the Robotics & AI Collaboration (RAICo) collaboration. The trial demonstrates how robotics could support routine health physics activities, reducing the need for people to enter potentially hazardous environments.

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



Nuclear
Decommissioning
Authority



DSG(2026)A02

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

To: DSG members and observers
Date/Time: Wednesday 3 June 2026 at 19:00
Venue: Pentland Hotel ballroom / MS Teams

AGENDA

1.	Welcome and opening remarks - Declarations of interest - DSG membership	Davie Alexander
2.	Apologies - Apologies tabled in advance - Notice of substitutes	Tina Wrighton
3.	Dounreay: High level updates: - NDA Corporate - NRS Dounreay - SEPA - ONR - CNC	Alan Mackay Dave Wilson Stewart Ballantine Govinder Sangha Chief Inspector Dave McIntosh
4.	MOD (Vulcan): High level updates: - MOD Vulcan - DNSR - SEPA - ONR	Cdr Ian Walker James Bryson Stewart Ballantine Alex Pitsillos
5.	Minutes of previous meeting DSG/PM(2026)M01 – 18 March 2026 Subgroup minutes: DSG/SESG(2026)M01: 22 April 2026 DSG/SRSG(2026)M01: 22 April 2026	Davie Alexander
6.	Status of actions	Tina Wrighton
7.	Correspondence	Davie Alexander
8.	Any other business	Davie Alexander
9.	Close	Davie Alexander

CORRESPONDENCE DISTRIBUTED SINCE LAST MEETING

CORRESPONDENCE

PAPERS

DSG(2026)P005	Rolls Royce Update, April 2026
DSG(2026)P007	ONR Report for Dounreay, January - March 2026
DSG(2026)P004	Vulcan Update, April 2026
DSG(2026)P010	DNSR Update on Vulcan, January - March 2026
DSG(2026)P006	SEPA update, April 2026
DSG(2026)P007	ONR for Vulcan, January - March 2026
DSG(2026)P001	NRS Dounreay Site Restoration update, April 2026
DSG(2026)P008	Focus North Update, April 2026
DSG(2026)P002	NRS Dounreay Socio Economic report, April 2026
DSG(2026)P009	CNC Update, April 2026
DSG(2026)P011	NDA report, June 2026
DSG(2026)P012	Scottish Government report, June 2026



DSGSESG(2026)P002

DOUNREAY SOCIO ECONOMIC UPDATE*current as of 10 April 2026*

NRS Dounreay Socio Economic Organisational Update

As of the 1st of April 2026, David Calder is Head of Socio Economics covering all of NRS and Alan Krailing is Head of Sustainability covering all of NRS. The Head of Socio Economics role continues to report into the NRS Director of Communications and Stakeholder Relations and sits on the Dounreay Leadership Team, reflecting Caithness and north Sutherland being one of the three NDA priority areas, alongside North Wales and Cumbria. Dounreay continues to have dedicated socio economic resource which continues to work collaboratively across NRS and the wider NDA Group.

Dounreay Socio Economic Annual Review

The 2024/2025 Dounreay Socio Economic Annual Review has now been [published](#). The 2025/2026 report is now being drafted and will include updated economic impact analysis which supersedes the analysis last published in 2022 (see Economic Impact Study section below).

The 2025/2026 Dounreay Employees Charity Fund Annual Report can be found in Appendix 2.

Highland Investment Plan

NRS Dounreay continues to engage with the Highland Council and Hub North on the Highland Investment Plan (HIP). Work is currently being undertaken by NRS to develop plans or support projects on office accommodation, living accommodation (housing), and innovation. NRS Dounreay are currently engaged with a supplier to develop an accommodation strategy business case.

Economic Impact Study

NRS Dounreay has been engaged through an NDA Group wide contract to develop the latest Economic Impact Study quantifying the economic impact of sites and the NDA group. The previous report was completed in 2022 and is updated on a three-year basis. A final draft report has now been received for comment and will be published in May after the election. The DSG will receive a copy in advance of publication.

Grant Funding

NRS Dounreay continues to provide pre-application support for socio economic funding. Dounreay is running a heavily pressurised budget in 2026/2027 and is expected to draw down further additional funds from the NDA as per previous years.

The continued status of socio economic grant funding activities is recorded in Appendix 1, with new projects funded in the previous quarter outlined below:

- FR-000002952 - Redevelopment of The John O' Groats Playpark (£50,000, <1yr project)
- FR-000003035 - Noss Primary School Parent Council School Trip (£10,000 <1yr project)
- FR-000003045 – Wick Community Hub (£90,000, 3 yr project)
- FR-000003076 – Apprenticeship Programme Caithness Business Fund (£150,000, 3 yr project)
- FR-000003099 - Science 03 Caithness International Science Festival 2026 – 2028 (£60,000 3 yr project)
- FR-000003090 - Community Infrastructure Support Programme (CISP) (£200,000 3 yr project, £50,000 funded)
- FR-000003089 - Community Resilience Fund (£200,000 3 yr project, £50,000 funded)
- FR-000003060 - NHI Farming Project (£200,000 3 yr project)
- FR-000003121 – Scottish Surfing Federation - Scottish National Surfing Championships (£30,000, 3 yr project)
- FR-000003111- Caithness Business Fund – FutureSkills Flexible Training Scheme (£200,000 1 yr project, £50,000 NDA funded)
- FR-000003107 – Wick Harbour Authority – River Harbour Development Wave Modelling (£10,000 1 yr project)
- FR-000003108 – North Highland Chamber of Commerce - All Energy Exhibition Stand 2026 Focus North (£12,000 1 yr project)
- FR-000003152 – Focus North Communications and Marketing Support. (£90,000, 1 yr project, £87,000 NDA Funded)

Please note the above values are the total award value from NRS Dounreay. Total project values may be higher.

Procurement

The following financial figures are for Q4 2025/2026, with the number of companies cumulative for Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4. It should be noted that the line items do not sum to any total. These numbers are provisional at end of P12 and may be liable to change.

Q4 FY25/26 Spend

- £ 32M including Mandatory Spend
- £ 22.6M of which is non mandatory and non-utility
- £ 4.4M is with 36 companies that are Caithness owned
- £ 7.3M is with 15 companies with Caithness resource*
- £ 11.7M is spent with Caithness owned or resourced suppliers
- £ 12M is with 272 SME Suppliers (Including Caithness SME)

YTD FY25/26 Spend

- £ 112.9M including Mandatory Spend
- £ 79.4M of which is non mandatory and non-utility
- £ 14.9M is with 44 companies that are Caithness owned
- £ 26.1M is with 16 companies with Caithness resource*
- £ 41.0M is spent with Caithness owned or resourced suppliers
- £ 34.5M is with 424 SME Suppliers (Including Caithness SME)

*Includes some mandatory spend

FY = Financial Year, YTD = Year to Date

The socio economics team, working with the commercial team, continue to improve how Dounreay sets, assesses, and monitors social value across in scope procurements. Dounreay continues to manage social value commitments from procurement.

Staffing

Recruitment continues to be carefully managed. Dounreay shares full details of all internal and external recruitment with the DSG Business Group to ensure transparency. No new updates were provided in the last quarter however offers to the new cohort of graduates have been sent out (19 of 20 accepted to date) and apprenticeship interviews have taken place with offers due out shortly.

Mutually Agreed Voluntary Exit (MAVE) has now taken place with circa 22 roles going and circa 70 people leaving the business.

As of the 1st of April 2026, 68 decommissioning operatives, managers, and support staff from GDES, Morson, and Nuvia have TUPE transferred and joined NRS Dounreay.

Awards

Three Dounreay nominees were awarded runner up status at the National Skills Academy for Nuclear (NSAN) Awards in March. The finalists were, David James in the Graduate category, Fallon Campbell in the Apprentice category and the FutureSkills initiative developed in conjunction with the North Highland Chamber of Commerce in the People Power category.



STEM

Dounreay is engaged on developing a new STEM strategy, with work delayed from end of Q4 to engage further stakeholders.

STEM activity in the last quarter has focussed on the First Lego League North Highland Tournament with NRS Dounreay funding the winning team from Newton Park Primary to attend the UK Final in Harrogate on 24 April 2026.



In addition support has been provided for Goblin car racing. There are 9 cars being built at 8 primary schools across Caithness, supported by NRS Dounreay engineers and apprentices and Rolls Royce apprentices. NRS Dounreay is funding the teams' travel and accommodation to allow them to compete at Alford on 12 June 2026.

Furthermore, NRS Dounreay supported the Caithness Science Festival held at Wick High School, where representatives from Training, Waste, Engineering/Drone Team, and our graduate cohort came together to inspire the next generation of scientists

and engineers. Financial support was also provided through the socio economic grant funding programme.



Dounreay Heritage

James Gunn has now retired from Dounreay. James has provided regular updates to the DSG on heritage as well as his valued contribution to site for many years and we wish him the best in his retirement. NRS heritage is now handled at Nucleus; The nuclear and Caithness archive facility, by archivist Jamie McCaffrey.

His final heritage update is provided in Appendix 3.

Visits to Dounreay

- N/A this quarter

**Magnus Davidson,
NRS Dounreay Socio Economics Manager**

10/04/2026

Appendix 1

Rolling status of socio economic grant funding activities

Funded Project	Completion date	Progress	Comments
CNSRP (Focus North) support hub	30/03/2024		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £487,000 Yr 4 (25/26): £103k* carry over £95,0404 paid to date £8,637 accrual for FY 26/27
Caithness Transport Forum	31/03/2027		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £30,000 Yr 2 (25/26): £10,000 £10,000 paid to date.
Focus North Programme Manager	31/03/2027		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: Up to £124,830 Yr 2 (25/26): Up to £40,000 £37,050 paid to date
STEM activities	N/A		Funding commitment: ongoing Total annual award £25,000 £14,125 paid to date
Dounreay Community Fund	N/A		Funding commitment: ongoing Total annual award £35,000 £40,845 paid to date £24,305 committed and accrued
Ormlie Community Association	30/09/2026		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £60,000 Yr 3: £20,000 £20k paid to date
Dunbeath and District Centre	31/12/2026		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £ 149,630 Yr 3: £24,938 £24,938 paid to date
Science Skills Academy Newton Room Thurso	01/06/2028		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £128,000 Yr 1: £40,000 £20k paid to date
North Coast Visitor Centre (Highlife Highland)	31/10/2027		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award £265,000 Yr 1: £75,000 £75k paid to date
Community Plan and Delivery (Thurso Community Development Trust)	30/09/2027		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £200,000 Yr 1: £66,666

Funded Project	Completion date	Progress	Comments
			£66,666 paid to date
Masterplan Delivery Officer (UpNorth! CDT)	01/03/2027		Funding commitment: 2 years Total award: £36,551 Yr 2: £18,177 £18,177 paid to date
Destination Strategy and Venture North (CCoC)	31/03/2028		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £342,000 Yr 1: £121,084 £121,084 paid to date
Apprenticeship Programme (CBF)	31/03/2027		Funding commitment: 2 years Total award: £150,000 Yr 1: £150,000 £150k paid to date
Future Skills Graduate Scheme	31/03/2027		Funding commitment: 2 years Total award: £100,000 Yr 1: £100,000 £100k paid to date
Association of the Northern Trails, Trail Development Manager	01/07/2027		Funding commitment: 1 year Total award: £35,000 Yr 1: £35,000 £26,250 paid to date
Sidh Chailleann Art – Caithness Art and Stone Festival	30/06/2026		Funding commitment: 1 year Total award: £11,970 Yr 1: £11,970 £11,970 paid to date
Caithness CAB, Community Outreach	01/10/2028		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £176,644 Yr 1: £58,147 £58,417 paid to date
Wick Harbour Authority 2025 Masterplan	21/03/2026		Funding commitment: <1 year Total award: £23,888 £23,888 paid to date
Redevelopment of the John O' Groats Playpark	31/10/2026		Funding commitment: < 1 year Total award: £50,000 £50,000 paid to date
Noss Primary School Parent Council School Trip	14/05/2026		Funding commitment: < 1 year Total award: £10,000 £0 paid to date
Wick Community Hub	31/01/2029		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £90,000 Yr 1: £30,000 £30,000 paid to date
Apprenticeship Programme Caithness Business Fund	28/02/2027		Funding commitment: 1 year Total award: £150,000 £150,000 paid to date

Funded Project	Completion date	Progress	Comments
Science 03 Caithness International Science Festival	31/03/2028		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £60,000 Yr 1: £20,000 £20,000 paid to date
Community Infrastructure Support Programme (NHI)	31/03/2029		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £200,000 Yr 1: £66,667 £66,667 paid to date
Community Resilience Fund (NHI)	30/04/2029		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £200,000 Yr 1: £50,000 £paid to date
NHI Farm Project	31/03/2029		Funding commitment: 3 year Total award: £200,000 Yr 1: £51,553 £0 paid to date
Caithness Business Fund FutureSkills Flexible Training Scheme	31/03/2027		Funding commitment: 3 year Total award: £200,000 £125,000 paid to date
Scottish Surfing Federation National Championships	01/04/2029		Funding commitment: 3 year Total award: £30,000 Yr 1: £15,000 £15,000 paid to date
Wick Harbour Authority River Harbour Wave Modelling	31/04/2026		Funding commitment: <1 year Total award: £10,000 £0 paid to date
North Highland Chamber of Commerce (Focus North) All Energy Stand	14/05/2026		Funding commitment: < 1 year Total award: £12,000 £0 paid to date
Focus North Communications and Marketing Support	31/03/2027		Funding commitment: < 1 year Total award: £90,000 £0 paid to date

Appendix 2 Dounreay Employees Charity Fund



Annual Report 2025/26

Introduction

The aim of the Dounreay Employees Charity Fund is to grant assistance, on behalf of Dounreay employees to local charities and non-profit making organisations within Caithness and North Sutherland or that benefit the community. The DECF is funded by Dounreay employees through monthly deductions from their salaries.

Grant funding during 2025/26

During the FY 25/26 the DECF had 21 requests with 18 of these being approved by the committee: amounting to £16,595.

Key highlights of the year included the donation of proceeds from *The Atomics* book to the DECF, supported by a promotional stand at the Mey Games. In addition, the DECF held a stall at the Wellbeing Fayre during October.

Money granted to Lybster FC for new nettings at the pitch in Lybster.



£1,000 to team tender for the charity cycle trek.



£3,000 to Caithness FM Toy Appeal



Appendix 3 Dounreay Heritage Initiative

Progress report – January to March 2026

Collection of objects

A total of 506 objects have been collected since 2008. No objects were collected in the period.

Recording of memories

A process to capture the memories of those leaving the site is in place. A form with seven questions is sent to leavers, and it is voluntary to complete it. Three forms were returned in the period.

Dounreay history

Dounreay's 70th anniversary was celebrated throughout 2025 and to mark this milestone a book was written by James Gunn and Thurso journalist Iain Grant. The title is, "The Atomics: the story of Dounreay's people".

The book has been selling very well with over 1,000 copies sold, raising around £15,000 for the Dounreay Employees Charity Fund.

It is available to buy at the NRS Dounreay public information office, the North Coast Visitor Centre, and on-line from the Porto Press website, www.portopress.com. The price is £17.99 for the paperback.

Dounreay Reminiscence Group

The popular Dounreay Reminiscence Group (DRG) continued with monthly sessions. The January session was a presentation by a former employee about the early operating years of PFR. Current staff from PFR and three graduates were among the audience of 40. This was the highest ever attendance. This is a great example of two-way knowledge exchange between generations.

The February session was a talk by an employee involved in the use of drones at Dounreay. The presentation included an appearance by the robotic dog "Spot" who proceeded to walk around the foyer at Nucleus causing much delight and photo opportunities. The talk on 26th March will be the last one before the sessions restart in October.

Miscellaneous

James Gunn, Heritage Officer since 2008, will retire on 31 March 2026. An interview by the Communications manager with James will feature in the March 2026 edition of the Dounreay News. James joined Dounreay in 1978 as a Scientific Trainee (48 years ago).

Complied by

James Gunn

NRS Dounreay Information & Knowledge Manager

12 March 2026

Focus North Programme Update

DSG Socioeconomic subgroup meeting 22nd April 2026

Summary

The programme priority areas continue.

- Developing a programmatic approach to Thurso Point of Delivery.
- Developing the business plan for the North Highland Innovation centre.
- Housing and accommodation - developing pilots and full-scale implementation.
- Supporting talent attraction.
- Engagement with young people.
- Support for business plan and implementation for the long term PSO.
- Support for other area priority plans as identified and agreed.
- Support for FCP to achieve first carbon sales/investment.
- All Energy event preparation and promotion.

Wick John O' Groats Airport

Short term PSO has now been agreed with a new provider (Air Charter Scotland) and an extension to allow this to continue until August has been approved. The follow on PSO business plan previously submitted is under active discussion with ministerial approval awaited. The tender process for this is underway with compliant bids received and evaluation underway.

Resourcing and next steps

The short-term contract now covers the period until the next PSO process is completed (assuming ministerial approval). There is an opportunity to maximise passenger uptake until August to demonstrate growth and potential future markets.

Industry Forum

The Industry Forum 'baseline' indicates an additional circa 800 full time permanent jobs being created in the area by 2035. Next step is to drill into the detail of types of roles to develop pipeline opportunities for young people and training capacity.

Resourcing of next steps

Dounreay as lead partner on this strand of activity are providing resource to support. UHI are sharing information on how this has been successfully undertaken in Stornoway.

Point of Delivery and Innovation centre opportunities

Highland Council Point of Delivery (PoD) in Thurso – This project continues to develop at pace with key engineering contractors appointed. Concurrently: - NRS Dounreay is examining its facilities for off-site staff; UHI is reviewing its estate needs and seeking to develop a lifelong learning campus; The innovation centre business plan is being developed; HIE is reviewing business premises needs; and there is need for rapid action on housing and accommodation. NHS Scotland may also have a need to develop services in conjunction with the PoD - these have not yet been identified or factored in.

Resourcing and next steps

To progress these opportunities the Thurso Transformation Delivery Group has been formed and has been meeting regularly and a comms group is now operating, chaired by Hub North Scotland. The governance structure has been outlined through a draft memorandum understanding for the key partners involved. An initial workshop to go through how this will operate his plan for the 24th of April.

[working title:] North Highland Innovation Centre. Neil James is acting as project manager and is now co-ordinating efforts to develop an outline business plan.

Skills and Talent attraction

Meeting the current and future workforce needs for the region continues to be a key priority.

Retention - Raising awareness amongst locals and particularly young people of the significant opportunities both immediate and in the future: -

- **School engagement**

- **Dee Bleakley** returned to Thurso and Wick High Schools last month and attended Farr High for the first time.
 - Thurso covered self-awareness and habit forming with S2 students (approx. 115)
 - Wick covered successful individuals with S1 students (approx. 108)
 - Farr covered confidence/presentation skills with S3 students (approx. 15) and study skills with S4-6 students (approx. 27).
- **The Minecraft Education programme ' Reinventing our Region'**, adapted from Minecraft's *Reinventing Cities* initiative, has successfully concluded at Wick and Thurso High Schools, giving S1 pupils an inspiring opportunity to reimagine the future of their communities through creativity, collaboration and digital design. Delivered by Focus North with support from Highland Council's Youth Work and Adult Learning Team, the programme challenged pupils to design sustainable, community-focused versions of Caithness using Minecraft Education, while building confidence, teamwork and problem-solving skills. Despite a major IT setback that caused the loss of their work near the end of the project, both school teams demonstrated outstanding resilience and determination by rebuilding their designs from scratch. Their achievements were celebrated at a special event on 24 March at Wick High School, where pupils presented their final projects and received individual awards including the Eco-Schools Scotland Green Leadership Award, the Youth Scotland Dynamic Youth Award and the YouthLink Scotland Participative Democracy Certificate, while each school was also presented with a PlayStation 5 console, generously supported by local business Amentum, to help encourage future learning and digital creativity.
- **Powering Futures** – NRS Dounreay are now a regional partner, supporting the delivery of this 30-week Higher-equivalent programme for S5/6 pupils. A highlight of the year was the Powering Futures Live event held at Ross County Football Club on 16th March, which provided an inspiring platform for students from across the Highlands and Moray to present their final assessments to an expert panel. The standard of presentations was outstanding, with pupils showcasing imaginative, well-researched solutions to real-world sustainability challenges. It was particularly impressive to see young people working confidently in teams, communicating their ideas with clarity and professionalism, and clearly stepping beyond their comfort zones. The energy and ambition on display at Ross County underlined the impact of the programme in building future-ready skills and confidence, and highlighted the strength of emerging talent across the region. **Delivered in Wick High School – Thurso still in discussion; Resource constraints making this challenging for Farr High.** [Powering Futures](#)

- **Parents and Teachers** – We continue to seek opportunities to engage with to provide updates and information.
- **Work experience** – This has been repeatedly identified is a vital way of highlighting opportunities to local young people and Highland Council are implementing a new system to expand these opportunities.
- **Youth perceptions survey** – NRS Dounreay and HIE are currently looking at an appropriate procurement approach to run an engagement with young people seeking their views of living and working in north Highland.

Attraction – outreach activities to raise the profile of regional opportunities and support working age migration to the area.

- **Live North** – the talent attraction initiative run by the North Highland Chamber of commerce has formally launched with ongoing support from partners. [Live North – Helping you move and find Jobs in Highlands.](#)

Resourcing and next steps

Further developments will align with Talent attraction needs as identified.

Communications

All-Energy Conference: Partners are collaborating to have significant presence at this year's All-Energy Event in Glasgow on the 13th and 14th of May. A Focus North themed stand has been procured, and a number of partner and business organisations have indicated they will attend using that as a base. [All-Energy Exhibition & Conference | Renewable Energy Event](#) A Communications plan is in train. Goal is to raise the area profile, increase inward investor interest in local projects and facilities and promote the region as a great place to work, live, study, and visit.

TTDG: The Focus North website continues to be a key hub for TTDG information. The dedicated TTDG page is currently being refreshed, with work underway to rethink the layout and structure to better support regular updates and partner content. A communications sub-group has been formed and is meeting regularly to coordinate activity. The group is developing a series of short videos to highlight upcoming work within Thurso, with an initial focus on the Community POD.

Housing and accommodation

Talent attraction, accommodation and housing issues are identified as a growing barrier to attracting new talent to the area. A region wide housing needs demand survey is underway being undertaken by Arneil-Johnson on behalf of Highland Council with report anticipated later in the year. A Senior HIE Development Manager is co-ordinating an action plan built from extensive engagement with the industry, developers and seeking to identify demand. Investigation has shown that despite demand there is still a gap between development on demand.

Resourcing and next steps

A Senior HIE Development Manager is co-ordinating an action plan built from extensive engagement with the industry, developers and seeking to identify demand. A key short-term challenge is to mobilise development of permanent housing solutions to meet SSEN's (via their tier one contractor Murphy's) short term workforce needs commencing in early 2027. Several potential projects have been identified and mobilisation to get these built is proving to be a challenge particularly as time is very much of the essence.

Peatlands restoration

PF continues to provide general management support for Flow Country Partnership SCIO (FCP), although diminishing as the Flow Country Partnership Manager is now in post. In particular commercial development needs additional support. The two completed projects are working through validation 4 units created. A pilot third restoration including a common grazings continues to be developed with restoration targeted for winter '26. Work to build a tourism and visitor strategy continues.

Resourcing and next steps

Immediate follow-on financing through further grant agreements has been partly secured to cover costs of existing team to allow continued progression. Short term cashflow is being managed using short term commercial finance. Two significant carbon purchase opportunities are being discussed.

Just Transition Commission 2025-6

Following the Just Transition Commission¹ visit to Caithness on the 7th and 8th of May 2025, and the Just Transition summit on the 29th October in Edinburgh the Commission chose to launch its national report in Thurso on the 19th of February at a well-attended and well covered event.

Resourcing and next steps

The commission has been approached to highlight the advantage of engaging with Caithness and Sutherland as a pilot area to measure impact of pilot activities. We'll continue to liaise and explore options as the new commissions' remit becomes clear.

Space Industry Update

HIE continue to look at options and engage with relevant parties on these.

Resourcing and next steps

In the short-term Focus North will continue a holding brief until the future direction is clear or specific opportunities arise that need support.

Team

Focus North Independent Chair – Initial process didn't attract suitable applicants; exploration of options is still underway.

Peter Faccenda
Focus North Programme Manager

Vicky Rosie
Admin and Comms Officer

¹ [Just Transition Commission](#)



Performance report to DSG Site Restoration Sub Group
For the period 1 January 2026 – 31 March 2026

NRS Dounreay delivery business key points

This reporting period marks the close of the financial year 2025/26. It has been marked by a strong improvement in mission delivery against our commitment, a constructive engagement with our regulators in resolving existing improvement and enforcement actions against the site and a sustained focus on Health, Safety, Safeguard and Environment performance with a special focus on conventional safety performance.

On delivery, Dounreay has completed every one of its committed milestones during the year, most of them at stretch. In this period in particular, key targets have been achieved in completing the DCP Store Extension 2 ready for inactive commissioning, preparing for the active filter change in D1206 and developing the 5 year assets stabilization plan.

Our regulatory return-to-routine plan continues to address the enforcement letters and one improvement notice that remains open, with those relevant to COMAH and DSEAR expected to be closed in the very near term. Progress continues to be made towards exiting enhanced regulatory attention.

On asset condition, most (15 out of 16) planned interventions listed against the site relevant operating target have been achieved and a high volume of remedial work has also been successfully undertaken following storms impact over the winter. This is in the context of the highest investment of the site in asset related work of the recent years.

Over the period, the site has also focused on preparing to start strongly for the next financial year, and to further increase the pace of its delivery. This is in line with the outcome of the 2026 NRS business planning (rolling 5 year window), which has allocated a growing share of resources to Dounreay (increase year on year for the next 5 years) in recognition of the prioritization of high hazard risk reduction and the need to implement an asset recovery in the context of an extended decommissioning timeline.

Operational, enabling and programme delivery target status

All operating and enabling targets have been completed at stretch for this year, except for breeder fuel which was competed on target. As indicated above, all delivery targets were competed for the year, most of them at stretch.

Programme Delivery Update

Reactors Programme

Progress on Reactors projects has been demonstrated by the closeout of the ONR improvement notice for alkali metal storage improvements, the related demolition of the DN026, and the removal of sodium buckets in PFR which is a prerequisite to the restart of the ILW (Intermediate Level Waste) route from the IFC (Irradiated Fuel Cave). DFR breeder drilling operations (to release trapped fuel) and EC&I commissioning activities were accelerated whilst fuel element transfer from the reactor to D2160 process cell suite was paused, to allow D2160 manipulator and associated equipment to be repaired. Year-to-date 30 breeder fuel elements have been transferred to D2160, with on target being met on 12/02/2026. Recovery equipment repairs are progressing and fuel moves expected to re-start in April 2026.

Fuel Cycle Area Programme

D1206 - The GKT was achieved on the target date of 31/03/26 and the containment and breathing air commissioning is now complete. This now ensure the active filter change project is able to move to the next step (including manned entries).

D1203 storage bank 1 Phase 2 containment complete in preparation for decommissioning

D1210 Pre-demolition works continuing

D1204 – The GKT was achieved with the submission of the D1204 pond strategy & action plan for management of leaks. This paper includes the emergency response instructions and forward actions required to implement these instructions.

Balance of Site Programme

Shaft and Silo

During this period, the programme business case (PBC) was endorsed at the NDA Group Investment Committee in February 2026 and is continuing its socialising and review journey through NDA board and ministerial committees.

Silo assessment: priority actions being taken to address technical and safety queries with the silo structure degradation study now completed and follow on actions started (removal of loading on the structure).

Advanced transition works- successful demolition of all above ground civil structures around shaft top (including control room demolition). Site prepared and work progressed allowing the start of phase 2 construction.

D1211 Sludge sampling: All site-based work in readiness for sampling complete. Start of work delayed while investigating laboratory capabilities to carry out works.

DCP Store extension 2

GKT achieved in period with the site ready for handing over to inactive commissioning. The building was powered up for the first time in early April.

EHSSQ performance

Environmental, security and safeguards performance remain largely stable, with nuclear and radiological performance remaining controlled and compliant. Conventional safety, however, continues to be the principal driver of adverse performance indicators, particularly slip, trip and fall events, which continue to push the TRIR upward (0.52 in Feb/March following 0.46 in Jan). While targeted controls (Safety pause, slip/trip campaign, plant walkdowns) have been deployed, human performance variability and inconsistent task planning remain underlying contributors.

Regulatory enforcement

The site remains in enhanced regulatory attention for safety, aligned with NRS own assessment that performance improvements are visible but not yet mature or sustained.

Control of the risk presented by dangerous substances and explosive atmospheres regulations enforcement letter – an updated delivery programme has been sent to ONR and the final evidence pack is being developed. Awaiting final engagement with ONR for closure.

COMAH Lower tier – level 3 regulatory issue enforcement letter – the final environmental risk assessments are going through due process. Compliance documentation delivery on schedule and will be included in the ONR’s inspection in June 2026.

FCA Carbon Bed Filter RN (RN/2025-001): SEPA has confirmed NRS has met the requirements of Step 1-3 on the regulatory notice and returned to compliance with standard condition G1.2. Step 4 - Contract has been awarded and plan being developed.

Non-Active drain RN (RN/2025-003): the management system documentation has been reviewed, and all inspections are now complete with evidence and level 2 assurance check complete. The final report is undergoing internal governance and will be issued to SEPA on time.

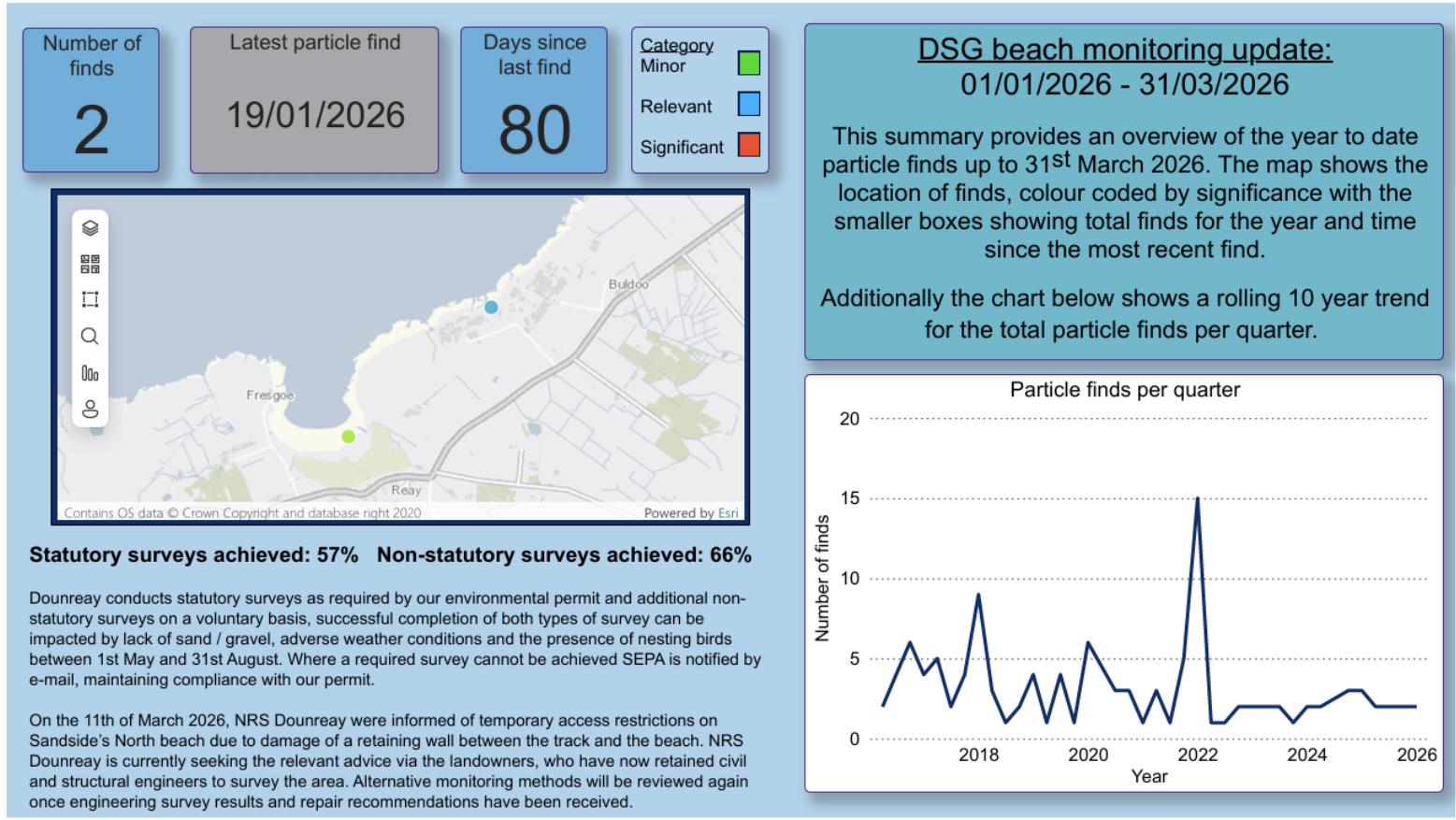
In period, NRS-D has notified SEPA of two potential non-compliances:
A sample of effluent taken from Milliscreen 3 returned a suspended solids result of 428.5mg/l which exceeds that limit within the site waste management licence. Non-compliance against condition 8.1.2.
Non-compliance notified to SEPA during this period against the EASR18 permit on the expiry of a radioactive material co-ordinator (RMC) appointment. Non-compliance against A5.1

There were three security, and no safeguards, incident (INF1s) in period.
Security management system Fault (Jan 26) - security management system impacted for several days until the root cause of the fault identified.
Misplaced laptop at home (Jan 26) - site staff member could not locate laptop after festive standdown and immediately reported misplaced. The laptop was found at home during February.
PFR transformer maintenance event (Feb 26) - security management system impacted for several days due to an electrical isolation issue.

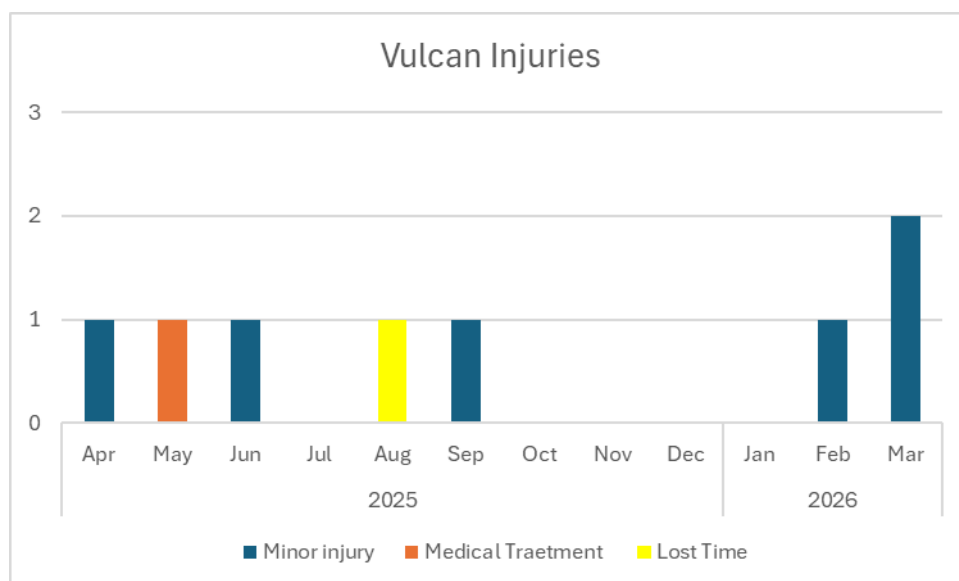
Onshore Monitoring of radioactive particles

All information and updates can be found on the Dounreay environmental monitoring website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/onshore-monitoring-of-radioactive-particles>



VULCAN NRTE Report to the DSG – April 2026



Health and Safety

Since last report to the DSG subgroup in January, Vulcan has had no lost time accidents or injuries. Unfortunately, we have had 3 minor injuries in this period.

- Feb – Minor cut to hand in the Pond area that was only noticed afterwards, injured person was unable to determine when it happened. no contamination was found, and a plaster was applied. Injured person returned to work.
- March – A burn on the arm received in the canteen by brushing against the steamer, cold water was run over the injury and the staff member returned to work.
- March – Minor bump on the head, which was received after changing a bin and when standing up hit their head on an open key safe.

Environment

Work continues to resolve the other non-conformances discovered during the internal review of the conventional discharge permits. A report is in production which will advise on updates that should be requested for the Licenses, for example, the correction of grid references and changes to discharge limits

On 31 December 2025, the permitted thresholds for the presence of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) were changed. Work has been completed to accommodate this change, but during this process we identified other aspects of management of PCBs which may not fully align with the requirements. Thus, we are undertaking a review to determine if any improvements need to be made.

Radioactive Waste Disposal

There have been no challenges to the Approval of Arrangements (AoA) limits during this period.

At the end of February 2026, the annual rolling discharge (expressed as a percentage against the maximum detailed in the SEPA letter of agreement) was:

	Type	Percentage
Gaseous	Noble Gases	0%
	Other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together.	3.5%
Liquid	Cobalt 60	0.004%
	All other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together.	0.0002%
	Tritium	0.005%
Solid	Number of Drums sent	214 Drums

Vulcan continues to transfer drums containing solid Low-Level Waste (LLW) to Dounreay with 35 drums being transferred during the last reporting period.

Work continues to: (a) produce a new reporting tool, (b) review the gaseous discharge sampling methodology, and (c) review and correct historic discharge records.

Site Programme

We have now completed the process of design, manufacturing and commissioning for the next work package which was agreed under the written ministerial statement on Vulcan's future laid out in March 2025. This work has now commenced, and we once again are collecting data to support the submarine enterprise.

Events

Since the last Subgroup meeting, there has been no events reported to DNSR or ONR in accordance with their mandatory reporting criteria.

Since the last written brief we have reported two separate environmental events to SEPA, both concerning the spillages of small volume of petrol / diesel fuel. The first of these was a leak from a contractor vehicle when transiting onto site, and the second was a spill from a fuel can while decanting fuel into a staff member's car in the car park. Both events were discussed in the DSG Verbal brief in March, and there have been no concerns raised by SEPA in this time.

Emergency Arrangements

The Emergency Planning team have prepared this year's training schedule and has begun preparations for our site exercise in May and our Level 1 demonstration exercise, LONESTAR which is scheduled for June. The SECUREX is scheduled for November.

Regulatory Inspections / Audits

DNSR conducted an AC28 audit and raised no findings although we await the formal report.

We have continued to progress the level 3 regulatory issue this period by means of a working group to review our arrangements. The review of our arrangements found a required update to four of our site documents. These have been completed and forwarded to ONR along with a request for closure of this part of the findings.

Liaising with the ONR we managed to close the issue with Active Equipment store stabilisation works allowing this work to be completed.

The measures put in place limiting building works on site remain extant until we can prove these new processes and fully close the regulatory issue.

At the end of March, SEPA conducted an inspection of our progress on developing a new Discharge Reporting Tool. Overall, this was a productive visit, and a follow up visit is planned for the early summer.

Vulcan Decommissioning Programme

The Site continues with the hazard reduction programme, identifying and removing redundant equipment from site. We continue work on the Bandsaw with storage options being explored. We also continue to look at removing old transport containers among other items from site.

Other

The Site held a bake sale and raffle on 17 March, with £777.05 being raised for the John O'Groats Play Park.



pp DT Chisholm
Deputy Naval Superintendent

I Walker
Commander Royal Navy
Naval Superintendent Vulcan

Rolls-Royce – Submarines
Vulcan Business Operations Update: April 2026

Rolls-Royce puts safety first and as such I'm pleased to confirm we have experienced no incidents of note since my last update to the group.

There have been no material changes to our business priorities since my last update to the group. As per my last input, our primary operational priority is the safe and timely delivery of our current programmes in support of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Submarines Enterprise. Rolls-Royce also continues to provide support to MOD in reviewing the process, operating model and indicative schedule options for the potential transfer of the Vulcan site decommissioning accountabilities to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) once MOD foresees no further requirement for the site in support of UK Defence. The mix of skills and capabilities at Vulcan is unique within the Submarines Enterprise, so in this context Rolls-Royce also continues 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, both at the Vulcan site, and in the longer term should we ultimately no longer enjoy access to the current site.

Our Rolls-Royce apprentice pipelines continues and remains fully populated and we are delighted that the recruitment process for our 2026 intake is well advanced, with assessment centres recently held to this end. More broadly, overall rates of both absence and attrition within the Rolls-Royce Vulcan team remain low.

Liam Hamilton
Director – Vulcan & IFM
Rolls-Royce Submarines Limited

Dounreay Site Stakeholder Group

Site Restoration Sub-Group



SEPA organisational update

With effect from 1st April 2026 a new structure in relation to SEPA's Radioactive Substances function came into effect. The Regulation and Science teams now sit within the Specialist Regulation function under Gary Walker and the Policy and Guidance team sits within the Office of the Chief Regulator under Paul Dale.

Site Inspection Work & EASR Compliance

During the reporting period SEPA has engaged regularly with Dounreay at a programme level or directly with project teams or facilities on matters including permit compliance, waste management, FCA decommissioning, Reactor decommissioning, Balance of Site projects including Shaft & Silo, laboratory activities and beach monitoring.

In March SEPA undertook a compliance inspection at the Dounreay site of NRS' arrangements in relation to the assessment of permit compliance following identification of issues and the provision of notification to SEPA of actual or potential permit contraventions.

In its inspection findings SEPA made a number of recommendations in relation to NRS' investigation arrangements. SEPA recorded NRS as compliant with the following standard conditions:

- A.9.1, relating to the requirement to inform SEPA where a requirement of your authorisation is being, has been, or might be contravened
- A.9.2, relating to the requirements to confirm the information in the notification in writing, carry out an investigation, record the investigation results, ensure corrective measures are carried out and send a summary of your investigation to SEPA
- A.1.1, relating to the requirement to have adequate financial and human resources
- A.3.1, relating to the requirement to have, implement and maintain written procedures

As previously reported, in July 2025 SEPA issued a Regulatory Notice to NRS in relation to the leak of radioactively contaminated water from the D2001 Carbon Bed Filter (CBF) to ground on the Dounreay site. The Regulatory Notice included steps requiring NRS to: review the groundwater monitoring arrangements; produce a programme for the implementation of recommendations from the review of groundwater monitoring arrangements and assess ongoing

compliance with standard condition G.1.2 in relation to discharges from the CBF. NRS has provided SEPA with its responses to these three steps, which SEPA has reviewed. SEPA's compliance assessment concluded that NRS has addressed the requirements of Steps 1, 2 and 3 of the Regulatory Notice and has returned to compliance with standard condition G.1.2.

Low Level Radioactive Waste Facility

SEPA continue to engage with the LLWF team on a regular basis and are content that the facility continues to operate in a compliant manner.

Non-Nuclear Site Regulation

Nothing to note.

Vulcan

Nothing to note.

Stewart Ballantine
Radioactive Substances Unit

For information on accessing this document in an alternative format or language, please contact SEPA by emailing equalities@sepa.org.uk

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contactscotland-bsl.org

OFFICIAL



Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR site report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd – Dounreay

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

ONR site report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd - Dounreay

Report for period: 1 January – 31 March 2026

Authored by: Safety Inspector

Approved by:

Issue: 1

Published: April 2026

Record reference:

Foreword

This report is issued as part of our commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. Reports are distributed to members for the Dounreay Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on our website: www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/llcssg-reports.

Our site inspectors usually attend Dounreay Site Stakeholder Group meetings where these reports are presented and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact us via email at contact@onr.gov.uk.

OFFICIAL

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1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of inspection

Our site inspectors made no inspections during the report period 1 January – 31 March 2026.

2. Routine matters

2.1. Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

- the Energy Act 2013;
- regulations made under the Energy Act 2013, for example the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 and the Nuclear Safeguards (EU Exit) Regulations 2019;
- the conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended);
- the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSWA74); and
- regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

The inspections entail monitoring the licensee's actions on the site in relation to incidents, operations, maintenance, projects, modifications, safety case changes and any other matters that may affect legal compliance. The licensee is required to make and implement adequate arrangements under the conditions attached to the licence to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, interactions with Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) Ltd - Dounreay covered the following:

- To review through structured regulatory interface meetings the progress being made to implement improvements designed to return the site to routine regulatory attention.

Members of the public who would like further information on our inspection activities during the reporting period can view site inspection records on our website:

www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/inspection-records.

In addition:

- During the reporting period we have remained informed of all major site activities that may affect nuclear safety, security and conventional health and safety and will continue to undertake proportionate assessment activities necessary to support the release of regulatory hold-points placed on a number of the projects on site, as appropriate.

Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email contact@onr.gov.uk.

2.2. Other work

Our inspectors continue to conduct formal reviews of the site's progress in delivering a number of agreed improvement activities. The three main topics areas are:

- safety leadership
- assets in a degraded condition
- health and safety compliance

During the reporting period our site inspector held meetings with safety representatives, to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety, and welfare at work.

3. Non-routine matters

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. Our inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

The following incidents were reported to us within this reporting period:

- An incident was reported in January when a contactor working on a roof, on site, slipped and fell on to the roof surface they were walking on and suffered an injury to their ribs. The worker did not fall from height. The injuries sustained were minor but required a recovery period greater than seven days. We have reviewed NRS-Dounreay's follow up to this event and considered this incident was appropriately managed by the dutyholder.

4. Regulatory activity

We may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, we issue regulatory documents, which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken. These are usually collectively termed licence instruments but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an enforcement notice.

- No licence instruments, enforcement notices or enforcement letters were issued during this period.]

Commented [AP1]: I wouldnt include this - this section is about licence instruments and enforcement etc

I added in the template text above

Commented [GS2R1]: spot on thanks

5. News from ONR

For the latest updates and information on our work, please subscribe to our regular email newsletter, ONR News, at www.onr.org.uk/news/newsletter.

6. Contacts

Office for Nuclear Regulation
Redgrave Court
Merton Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7HS
Website: www.onr.org.uk
Email : contact@onr.gov.uk

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References

There are no sources in the current document.

CNC Update – DSG SRSG

- Initial Foundation Programme (IFP) 110 beginning 15/04/2026 with 6 officers for Dounreay and 4 for our non-nuclear sites in Aberdeen. Policing skills and Public and Personal Safety Training (PPST) carried out at Dounreay. The Firearms portion of the course will be done at Firearms Training Unit South – Bisley.
- Planning work from HR Recruitment indicates that we will get between 3-5 candidates onboarded for the next 3 IFP courses which will be very beneficial in dealing with our staffing issues and bring us close to our establishment figure.
- Part of this success attributed to our relocation support initiative - [CNC Jobs | RelocateToDounreay](#)
- Thanks to Supt Lynsay Hernandez who has now moved to our Strategic Development Department. Ch/Insp Dave McIntosh now Dounreay Operational Unit Commander since 6th April.
- Continue to work with internal departments and Stakeholders to understand accommodation challenges for new recruits & longer-term impacts.

Dave McIntosh

Dounreay OUC.

VULCAN NAVAL REACTOR TEST ESTABLISHMENT

DNSR QUARTERLY REPORT

1 Jan 2026 to 31 Mar 2026

FOREWORD

1. This report is issued as part of the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator's (DNSR's) commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the Defence Nuclear Enterprise¹ available to the workforce and the public. The Secretary of State for Defence is answerable to Parliament for the safety of all defence activities; he has issued a Health, Safety and Environmental Protection Policy Statement requiring the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to comply with legislation, and where there are exemptions relating to defence activities, to make, so far as is practicable, arrangements at least as good as those required by legislation. DNSR is empowered to regulate nuclear and radiological safety in the Defence Nuclear Enterprise. This is achieved in a manner that complements and joins up with the work of statutory regulators².

2. Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE) is an Authorised Site under MoD regulation; Authorisation is a process akin to licensing under the Nuclear Installations Act. Statutory regulators have roles under general health, safety and environmental legislation, and DNSR Inspectors work closely with them; this report should be read in conjunction with theirs. The report is made available to members of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group. Where possible, a DNSR Inspector will attend Stakeholder Group meetings and will respond to any questions raised. Additionally, DNSR Inspectors may be contacted at their offices at Abbey Wood, Bristol.

PERIOD OF THIS REPORT

3. This report covers the quarterly reporting period from 1 Jan 2026 to 31 Mar 2026.

ROUTINE MATTERS

4. Routine visits to the Site are made for the purpose of undertaking pre-planned examinations of the adequacy of safety management, examinations of Authorisation Condition (AC) compliance or compliance with other regulations and attending formal meetings with Site management or their representatives.

5. DNSR conducted one Site visit to Vulcan NRTE. Regular MoD NET MS Teams remote meetings with the Naval Superintendent Vulcan (NSV) have been established and continue to take place:

- a. **17 Mar 26** – AC28 (Examination, Inspection, Maintenance and Testing) planned Inspection.
- b. **18 Mar 26** – Site Visit Level 3 Regulatory Interface For a (L3RIF) meeting

PERMISSION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

6. DNSR has not placed any regulatory enforcement action on NSV in this quarter.

NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

¹ Comprising the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Programme (NNPP) and the Nuclear Weapon Programme (NWP).

² The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), the Environment Agency (EA), and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

7. No non-routine matters were raised during this period.

J Byson

DNSR ICF-b

14 Apr 2026

Distribution: (Indicates* by e-mail)

Internal:

DNSR NPR*

DNSR ICF*

External:

Dounreay Stakeholder Group*

ONR (Vulcan Site Inspector) *

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group Public Meeting, held at 19:00 on Wednesday 18 March 2026.

Present:	David Alexander (DA)	DSG Chair
	Gillian Coghill (GC)	DSG Vice-chair
	Peter Faccenda (PF)	Focus North
	Christian Nicholson (CN)	NHS
	David Broughton (DB)	Co-opted member of the public
	Niall Watson (NW)	Dounreay Trade Unions
	David Craig (DC)	Caithness West Community Council
	Cllr Janet McEwan (JM)	The Highland Council
	William McGillivray (WM)	Thurso Community Council
	Alan Scott (AS)	DSG SRSG chair
	Ken Nicol (KN)	Co-opted member of the public
	John Deighan (JD)	Co-opted member of the public
	Ron Gunn (RG)	CHAT
	Cllr Raymond Bremner (RB)	The Highland Council
	Cllr Struan Mackie (SM)	The Highland Council
	Marie Cuthbert (MC)	NHS
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

Frederic Stalin (FS)	NRS Dounreay Portfolio and Support Director
Alan Mackay (AM)	NDA Site Facing Team
Diane Hamilton (DH)②	Scottish Government
Cl Dave McIntosh (DM)	CNC
Cdr Ian Walker (IW)	MOD Vulcan
Stewart Ballantine (SB)	SEPA
James Bryson (JB)	DNSR
Alex Pitsillos (AP)	ONR
Govinder Sangha (GS)	ONR
Tina Wrighton (TW)	NRS Dounreay Stakeholder and External Relations manager
Ferne Mill (FM)	NRS Dounreay Communications administrator

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

DA welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He noted the change in chair and vice chair and introduced himself as chair and GC as vice chair.

DA noted AS was voted in as SRSG chair and GC as SESG chair.

DA thanked SM for his work in DSG over the last few years.

2. APOLOGIES

The following apologies were received:

- Roger Saxon
- Cllr Michael Baird
- Tor Justad

- Dr Cllr Stephen Clackson
- Brian Mutch
- Debbie Miller
- Trudy Morris
- Sandy Mackie
- Cllr Matthew Reiss
- Donna Chambers

3. DOUNREAY UPDATE

NDA Corporate: Alan Mackay reported:

Report was taken as read.

AM noted the NDA stakeholder team is changing post MAVE but the NDA will still attend Dounreay's stakeholder group meetings. The NDA reorganisation is ongoing and will be done by end of year.

AM noted the business plan was posted – [NDA Business Plan 2026-29 - for gov.uk.pdf](#)
DA welcomed any questions.

No questions were raised.

NRS Dounreay: Dave Wilson reported:

The report was taken as read with a few updates.

DW thanked all the support services over the festive/winter period with the weather causing challenges for the site.

Injuries have been noted in the report, but an additional slip has occurred which has been followed up with communications surrounding slips, trips and falls and a focus continues on avoiding these.

Human performance training is being rolled out, with trainers being trained on site.

Site continues to work with regulators, working to move out of enhanced regulatory attention from ONR.

Working with SEPA to face challenges and legacy issues.

DW noted the positive local press coverage of site successes.

Site is on target to hit all its targets.

MAVE has taken place, roughly 22 roles will go and around 70 people will be leaving the business, some posts will be back filled. The site is in the process of capturing knowledge.

The TUPE process for decom operatives is progressing well and will take place 1 April.

Trade unions are involved in awarding voluntary appointments; a ballet will be held in the near future regarding this.

Dounreay people have been winning and commended at many awards recently.

The socio economic spend is going to exceed last year's spend; roughly £1.2 million has been fed back to the community this year.

Apprentice and graduate recruitment has started.

AGRs are being brought into NRS at the end of the month.

Questions were welcomed.

JD asked about remote working at Dounreay and how this is affecting socio economics - what are these people bringing that you can't recruit in the area. DW replied saying it would be ideal to have local people trained but some roles require knowledge asap that can't be found within the area locally at that time. It is not realistic. Happy to work with stakeholder groups and the Chamber to look at solutions. Mac MacGill added there are also people who have started in Dounreay and been supported to do remote working. . A discussion followed.

DB asked about the multi-year funding and if there are major contracts in place for over 4/5 years. DW said yes, there is a governance process to allow for this commitment.

JM asked who Dounreay thinks is responsible for finding housing for the people coming up here to do work. DW said Dounreay would like to work in partnership with many different agencies to try and support the idea of rentals, but this is a broad project, and everyone needs to work together.

A discussion followed regarding housing and working arrangements.

SM asked DC for a socio-economic workforce strategy. DW and DCa explained this strategy is not yet ready to be provided but early engagement could be considered. A discussion followed around the site's socio-economic sustainability plan.

Discussions continued following these questions and site future plans.

There were no further questions.

SEPA: Stewart Ballantine reported:

The report was taken as read with some updates.

Regulatory notice for the carbon bed filter has successfully met with the first 3 requirements. This is continuing to be engaged.

Regulatory notice on D1401 sump - the first milestone is on track to be met.

A compliance inspection took place; the site was compliant with EASR.

There were no questions.

ONR: Govinder Sangha reported:

The report was taken as read.

Engagement is continuing with Dounreay - challenge has been provided and engagement is all positive.

DA asked about safety leadership and what it involves, GS said it is evidenced then scored and regular engagement is happening on site to ensure leadership measures are in place for the site to remain safe. DW said shortfalls occurred during a time of change and things are in place to get the site back where it needs to be.

SM asked what the new sites structure looks like for ONR - is there recruitment happening across ONR for specialists? GS said there was pre-empted recruitment and there are no issues to perform these engagements/activities.

There were no further questions.

CNC:

Dave McIntosh provided a verbal report.

The weather proved a challenge for CNC over the festive period but the expected service was provided to Dounreay with no regulatory shortfalls.

Recruitment is ongoing. There are 6 candidates starting a course in April with the start of the course being done at Dounreay. 5 of these recruits are from The Highlands.

There are 80 people within the recruitment pipeline.

Relocation support is being offered to people relocating to the area.

DM thanked CI Paul Gilmartin for being his replacement while on secondment.

Lynsay Hernandez is moving to a new role with the number of Superintendents going down and DM is now in a lead role.

RG noted the CNC supported Police Scotland with an incident in Wick and thanked them for their service.

There were no further questions.

4. MOD VULCAN

MOD Vulcan: Cdr Ian Walker reported:

The report was taken as read.

IW thanked SM.

Since the previous subgroup the site has had 2 minor injuries, both dealt with by first aid and immediately returning to work.

2 environmental events occurred, a small amount of fuel leaked. One from a contractor vehicle. The other from a member of staff filling up in the carpark and then spread by rain. Both reported to SEPA. No visible sign of oil present in the drains.

The sewage flow meter is reading correctly.

Replace acronyms here - PCBs were mentioned in the last meeting having sought SME advice there is no legal requirement for these be removed as they are solid, not liquid.

Operations continue as scheduled, no events reported to ONR or DNSR.

Lonestar 2026 preparation is commencing, the exercise will take place in June.

DNSR have been on site to do a compliance inspection, there were no immediate concerns but a report to follow.

ONR have been on site for a meeting with site safety reps. The site is on track to complete the arrangements for CDM in the agreed timescale.

Site continues with hazard reduction programme.

There were no questions.

DNSR: James Bryson reported:

The report was taken as read.

Nothing to add.

No questions were raised.

SEPA: Stewart Ballantine reported:

Nothing further to report.

No questions were raised.

ONR:

A CDM inspection took place, ONR are continuing to engage with the site.

Nothing further to report.

No questions.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

DA noted the minutes of the last public meeting (**DSG/PM(2025)M003**) held in December 2025 had been circulated to members in advance. He invited members to raise any issues from the minutes. The minutes were proposed by DC seconded by GC. A minor change was noted on page 2 of the minutes which has been updated.

The minutes of the DSG socio economic subgroup (**DSG/SESG(2026)M004**) held in January were endorsed by the group proposed by DA and seconded by PF.

The minutes of the DSG site restoration subgroup (**DSG/SRSG(2026)M004**) held in January were endorsed by the group, proposed by DA and seconded by GC.

There were minor amendments suggested to the minutes which have been made and ratified before issue

6. STATUS OF ACTIONS

The status of actions was taken as read.

DSG/SESG(2026)M004/A01: Magnus to arrange a meeting with Alan Scott and reps from local businesses.

Alan highlighted that local companies can't compete with Dounreay's terms and conditions. A meeting to take place with Alan and his representatives from the local business base – discussions have taken place and a meeting will be arranged once challenges with travel are over.

This action is ongoing.

DSG/SRSG(2025)M03/A03: Following the RTC on 7 October - SM to bring together representatives from HC, NRS, Police Scotland, Bulldo, Vulcan and DSG to discuss road improvement options.

This action is ongoing.

DC stated he is concerned on the lack of action in regard to the RTC meetings. SM updated on the HC engagement for this meeting and that the involvement of Malcom MacLeod is a promising sign. GC added that it is important Vulcan is part of this conversation also.

NW said even as someone familiar with the road it can be confusing. He added the road is in a poor condition meaning people avoiding potholes could lead to head on collisions. Raymond Bremner said meetings have taken place monthly to update on road damage and this road is a priority. A discussion followed.

7. Correspondence

There has been no correspondence since the last meeting.

8. AOB

SM thanked the regulators and observers for their work during his term as chair.

AS asked if AMEY had been provided a new contract to deal with NRS sites and will this affect local supply.

DW said the existing workforce will be TUPE'd into AMEY and it won't affect our inhouse delivery team. The local supply chain and AMEY are hoping to work together.

MC thanked Dounreay and Vulcan for their support during the bad weather and allowing services to continue in the county.

A discussion followed with members and the public regarding Highland Council issues.

9. CLOSE

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

David Alexander

DSG chair

18 March 2026

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

No formal actions arose from this meeting.

**DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SOCIO ECONOMIC SUB GROUP**

Minutes of the DSG Socio Economic subgroup meeting held on Wednesday 22 April 2026 at 1330 hours in the Orlig meeting room, Dounreay public information office and Microsoft Teams.

Present:	Gillian Coghill (GC)	Buldoo Residents Group, SESG Chair
	Peter Faccenda (PF)	Programme Manager, Focus North, SESG Vice Chair (voted in at this meeting)
	David Alexander (DA)	Thurso and Wick Trades Council, DSG Chair (online)
	Cllr Struan Mackie (SM)	Highland Council (online)
	Ron Gunn (RG)	CHAT
	David Broughton (DB)	DSG Co-opted member of the public
	Alan Scott (AS)	DSG Co-opted member of the public
	Sandy Mackie (SM)	DSG Co-opted member of the public
	Ken Nicol (KN)	DSG Co-opted member of the public
	Blair McGeachin (BM)	Women in Nuclear

In addition:

Magnus Davidson (MD)	Socio Economics Manager, NRS Dounreay
Hannah Sutherland (HS)	Senior Socio Economics Administrator, NRS Dounreay
Tina Wrighton (TW)	Stakeholder & External Relations Manager, NRS Dounreay
Andrew Harper (AH)	Socio Economics Manager, NDA (online)

MINUTES**1. WELCOME**

Gillian Coghill welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the presence of new attendees.

Introductions were made to Andrew Harper, Socio Economics Manager at NDA.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

David Calder (DC)	Head of Socio Economics, NRS
John Deighan (JD)	DSG Co-opted member of the public
Roger Saxon (RS)	DSG Site Restoration Subgroup Vice Chair
Trudy Morris (TM)	Chief Executive, North Highland Chamber of Commerce
Jeremy Gilmour (JG)	Head of Community & Economic Development, NDA

Cllr Janet McEwan (JM)	Highland Council
Cllr Raymond Bremner (RB)	Highland Council
Donna Chambers (DCh)	Deputy Chief Executive, Caithness Chamber of Commerce
Lauren Mackay (LM)	Women in Nuclear
Eann Sinclair (ES)	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Debbie Miller (DM)	UHI North, West, and Hebrides
Ryan Mclean (RM)	Scrabster Harbour Trust

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

GC noted that the minutes of the previous meeting, approved at the public meeting in December 2025, were taken as read.

No declarations of conflict of interest were made.

GC thanked Roger Saxon for his contribution and valued input as a member of the Socio Economic subgroup.

Peter Faccenda was nominated as DSG Socio Economic Subgroup Vice-Chair. Proposed by Alan Scott and seconded by Ron Gunn. Peter Faccenda accepted the nomination.

4. ACTIONS

DSG/SESG(2026)M004/A01 – Magnus Davidson informed members that the meeting regarding the supply chain was in the process of being rescheduled due to diary constraints of key attendees.

DSG/SRSG(2025)M03/A03 – GC reported on a meeting with representatives from HC, NRS, Police Scotland, Buldoo, Vulcan, and DSG noting disappointment with the level of input from Highland Council. GC advised that the Council uses a risk matrix, informed by Police Scotland accident data, to assess road and slipway danger; however, accidents reported locally do not appear to have been logged. SM is speaking with others who have privately funded similar assessments.

TW provided an update from discussions on Dounreay installed cameras with the Roads Officer, noting that they had been helpful and that indicative costs for road safety cameras had been received. Installation will need to be coordinated with Highland Council, who will lead.

GC relayed feedback from Buldoo residents that the spacing of bollards is contributing to accidents. JD asked who analyses the camera data; TW confirmed this is undertaken by Highland Council, with reports provided to Dounreay and Vulcan. Cameras monitor driver behaviour between 07:00–19:00, equating to 84 hours of footage, and engagement with site unions will be required.

5. DOUNREAY COMMUNITY FUND REQUESTS

Magnus Davidson presented the funding applications, advising members on scoring and his recommended funding allocations. Members then discussed each DCF application.

6. DOUNREAY SOCIO ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

GC invited MD to provide key highlights from the paper.

Members were advised of a restructure within NRS, with David Calder appointed Head of Socio Economics (NRS-wide) and Alan Krailing appointed Head of Sustainability (NRS-wide).

The Dounreay Socio Economic Annual Review has been published. Members noted the importance of the Highland Investment Plan for the local area. The Economic Impact Study, undertaken by the NDA and PwC, has concluded and reflects strong Dounreay impact; publication is expected once the pre-election period ends.

Grant funding for the last quarter was confirmed as complete. For full year 2025/26 £930k was awarded through Dounreay funds, with additional NDA funding bringing the total to £1.2m. RG queried public awareness of this funding; MD advised that a new communications initiative will focus on sharing project impact stories.

Struan Mackie asked about budgets for the current financial year; MD advised an update will be circulated when finalised. Comparison with other NRS sites was discussed, with MD highlighting increasing levels of Dounreay spend over recent years. PF highlighted the importance of focussed socio-economic priorities as funding environments become more pressurised.

Procurement spend for 2025/26 was discussed. Local Caithness spend has seen a slight decrease year on year, although work is currently being taken to understand the drivers it is thought that it is largely due to the completion of major Caithness resourced projects. MD will return with confirmed figures from Commercial.

Members discussed the TUPE of 68 staff from the supply chain into Dounreay roles, resulting in an overall increase in headcount. AS noted potential negative impacts on the taxpayer. KN asked about MAVE and backfilling arrangements with GC highlighting that some employees are required to remain until December to train successors. Further discussion followed on MAVE with it being agreed to raise in the evening site restoration meeting.

A record intake of 19 graduates was confirmed. Apprentice offers have been issued. AS asked about local graduate representation; MD confirmed recruitment is undertaken on an open basis, with both local and non-local candidates accepting offers. He highlighted the benefits of both cohorts accepting positions at Dounreay.

STEM activities were recognised, including the contributions of apprentices and STEM ambassadors. Annual STEM activity spend is £14k this year which is slightly below what was expected but was in part due to usual end of year payments falling into the next financial year.

DCF spend exceeded the annual budget, however additional commitments were covered from the 2024/25 financial year underspend.

MD noted this would be James Gunn's final heritage update and thanked him for his contributions over the years.

7. FOCUS NORTH UPDATE

GC invited PF to provide key highlights from the paper.

PF advised that the POD development including a new high school build is due for completion in 2030/31, alongside plans for a lifelong learning campus at the college. Dounreay off-site accommodation and regional housing pressures were discussed. PF noted that housing delivery in Caithness and Sutherland remains low (approximately 30–40 homes per year), creating challenges for incoming workers. SSEN has identified two to three potential housing projects, in addition to the worker-camp development.

An update on Wick Airport was provided, confirming the current contract extension runs until August, bridging the end of the existing PSO and the start of a new arrangement. PF confirmed fuel cost increases have resulted in an approximate £7 increase per seat. The procurement process for a new provider is underway, with bids received.

Skills and talent attraction activity continues, focusing on engaging younger people and raising awareness of future local employment opportunities. Work is ongoing with Dee Bleakley on confidence-building workshops, informed by positive survey feedback. Educational initiatives include a Minecraft-based programme delivered with Thurso and Wick High Schools, enabling pupils to design towns they would like to see in the region.

PF highlighted the Powering Futures Level 6 qualification, exploring opportunities in power, renewables, and future industries in Caithness and North Sutherland, with a focus on employability skills. Work experience opportunities remain under discussion.

Communications activity includes exhibiting at All-Energy in Glasgow on 13–14 May, marking the first presence in several years. The revised Live North website has launched to support inward attraction by providing information on jobs, schools, and local areas.

KN asked about the recent workshop regarding the POD and proposals for including a swimming pool within the new high school campus. RG noted lessons learned from Wick's experience. PF confirmed a consultation process was taking place, with RN advising that public feedback favoured retaining the existing pool location.

A wider discussion followed on housing needs and Highland Council engagement. MD advised he is closely involved in forecasting incoming workforce numbers for Dounreay and Focus North, noting opportunities for non-permanent roles to be filled by local residents. Members were advised that Murphy's is exploring accommodation options for workers over multiple years, including potential development of up to 100 homes. Further discussion followed on housing delivery and developers.

8. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING

No new correspondence. New Dounreay Shaft and Silo Project video was shown to members.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

RG highlighted the establishment of a new organisation, Patient Safety Commission, and advised that it holds a seat on the task force reviewing maternity services in Caithness. The organisation is open to engaging with community members and is considering care-at-home services across all settings.

RG noted that engagement has taken place with patients prior to meetings with NHS Highland. PF asked about the process, and RG confirmed the organisation is visiting all NHS areas, with a particular focus on rural communities.

AS noted that cement production accounts for approximately 8% of global carbon emissions and asked whether Dounreay uses low-carbon concrete. MD confirmed that Dounreay uses A rated concrete from a carbon perspective with one of the lowest carbon concrete mixes available that meet British Standards.

GC informed the members of a recent presentation provided by a new supplier Amey of which members of the DSG were involved.

MD informed members that Amey have won a large contract across NRS with a smaller component for Dounreay related to catering and cleaning services. Existing staff will be TUPEd from existing suppliers to Amey.

10. CLOSE

There being no further business Gillian Coghill thanked everyone for their input and formally closed the meeting.

Gillian Coghill

DSG Socio Economic Sub Group Chair

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

DSG/SESG(2026)M004/A01: MD to arrange a meeting with AS and reps from local businesses - AS highlighted that local companies can't compete with Dounreay's terms and conditions. A meeting to take place with AS and representatives from the local business base. UPDATE: Initial discussions have taken place – face to face meeting being rescheduled to include all parties.

DSG/SRSG(2025)M03/A03: Following the RTC on 7 October - SM to bring together representatives from Highland Council, NRS, Police Scotland, Buldoo Residents, Vulcan and DSG to discuss road improvement options - Meeting held on 14 April – way forward agreed to carry out independent audit of junction, install cameras at junctions for Dounreay and Vulcan and driver behaviour training offered – HC led – NRS budget granted.

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

DSG/SRSG(2026)M001

SITE RESTORATION SUBGROUP

Minutes of the DSG Site Restoration subgroup meeting held on Wednesday 22 April 2026 at 19:00 in the Ormlie hub, Thurso and via MS Teams.

Present:	Alan Scott (AS)	DSG Site Restoration Subgroup chair
	David Broughton (DB)	Site Restoration subgroup vice chair
	Gillian Coghill (GC)	Buldoo Residents Group chair (SESG chair)
	Niall Watson (NW)	NRS Dounreay Trade Unions
	Christian Nicolson (CN)	NHS
	David Craig (DC)	Caithness West Community Council
	Tor Justad (TJ)	HANP
	William McGillivray (WM)	Thurso Community Council
	Ken Nicol (KN)	DSG co-opted member of the public

In attendance:

Alex Pitsillos (AP)	ONR
Cdr Ian Walker (IW)	MOD Vulcan
Ferne Mill (FM)	NRS Dounreay
Tina Wrighton (TW)	NRS Dounreay
Govinder Sangha (GS)	ONR (Dounreay)
Stewart Ballantine (SB)	SEPA
Frederic Stalin (FS)	NRS Dounreay
CI Dave McIntosh (DM)	CNC
James Bryson (JB)	DNSR

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

AS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He noted this was his first meeting as chair and thanked those for voting him in.

AS also thanked Roger Saxon for his work during his term as chair.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

- David Alexander DSG chair
- Cllr Dr Stephen Clackson Orkney Islands Council
- John Deighan Co-opted member of the public
- Cllr Michael Baird Highland Council
- Cllr Raymond Bremner Highland Council

3. Election of vice chair

Gillian Coghill proposed David Broughton as vice chair of the subgroup, David Craig seconded this. There were no other nominations.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes from the last meeting held in October were approved at the public meeting in March. There were no changes to the minutes.

5. ACTION STATUS

DSG/SESG(2026)M04/A01: Magnus to arrange a meeting with Alan Scott and reps from local businesses.

Alan highlighted that local companies can't compete with Dounreay's terms and conditions.

A meeting to take place with Alan and his representatives from the local

business base – discussions have taken place – meeting being rescheduled to include all parties.

DSG/SRSG(2025)M03/A03: Following the RTC on 7 October - Meeting held on 14 April – way forward agreed to carry out independent audit of junction, install cameras at junctions for Dounreay and Vulcan and driver behaviour training offered – HC led – NRS budget granted.

TW noted this action is ongoing and still to be formally approved by all necessary parties. NW added the unions do not need to approve this but just need to be informed of it happening.

6. DOUNREAY UPDATE

Dounreay: FS reported

There has been lots of progress on the targets, showing commitment to delivery, this has been a big success.

Progress is being made to better ongoing enforcement notices.

The site is developing a 5-year plan for assets and then will develop a long-term asset plan. Programme managers are in place to push this.

Asset conditions hit all the targets.

There is a big emphasis on site to focus on pre-job thinking and ensuring we're not falling into error traps to improve performance

There are 2 regulatory notices with ONR and 2 with SEPA.

Questions were raised:

DC noted the temporary access restriction on the north side of Sandside beach and asked what this means for monitoring. SB confirmed that SEPA are aware of this. It was noted monitoring will not take place while the restriction is in place but will continue the larger Sandside beach.

KN asked about the Dounreay and Vulcan Highland Council offsite emergency plan consequences report on their website that was dated 2022 and should be updated every 3 years. Vulcan confirmed they have updated theirs within the last 3 years and HC and ONR have been notified on their side. FS took an action to confirm if this has been completed by Dounreay and to check the website.

DSG/SRSG(2026)M01/A01: Review status of Highland Council offsite emergency plan consequence report – not updated on website since 2022:

Response received from Emergency Arrangements: Plan dated 2025 on the website - [dounreay-and-vulcan-nrte-offsite-emergency-plan](#)

Issue 8.1 March 2025 was uploaded when the new HC website was launched in February 2026. It will next be updated in 2027.

KN asked about gaps created by MAVE and the costs associated with MAVE. FS explained this process was reviewed, it was mutually agreed, no one was let go that the site required. FS said there is an NRS wide business case, and as such he was unsure whether these costs could be advised to the DSG. A discussion followed regarding MAVE and associated costs.

DB asked about DCP store 2 extensions and asked if the product being stored is 500L cemented drums and if there is a contract for these. FS replied yes there is.

TJ asked about fuel element transfer equipment repair; FS said the operation will be done with restart in May, it is handling equipment which needs maintenance.

AS mentioned he would like to review the way the report is produced. FS noted this is something that could happen at a business meeting. A discussion followed and a meeting has been arranged.

AS thanked FS for his update.

SEPA: SB reported

Recruitment is being undertaken to recruit an additional Dounreay inspector and an additional inspector to support the regulation of all sites. New SEPA member in Thurso.

Regulatory notices ongoing but progressing well; the next action specified in the carbon bed filter notice is not due for completion for an extended period. The Notice issued following the D1401 sump issue has been completed by NRS and SEPA will review the supporting evidence when onsite in mid-May.

SB had nothing further to cover out with his report.

TJ asked what SEPA engagement is with Shaft and Silo, SB explained the site lead inspector engages with the team on how they plan to meet the requirements of the EASR permit.

AS thanked SB.

ONR: GS reported

There has been 1 reportable incident of a contractor falling on site.

ONR continue engagement to return the site to routine attention levels.

Nothing further to report.

No questions were raised.

AS thanked GS.

CNC: DM reported

The report was taken as read.

The CNC are engaging with their new points of contact.

DM welcomed any questions.

AS noted, it was great to see the training starting in Caithness and DM gave a brief update on recruitment.

TJ asked if there was firearms training in Scotland, DM said this used to be the case but there is no capacity in Caithness to run this.

A discussion followed around housing issues CNC face and attracting people to the area.

AS thanked DM for his update.

7. VULCAN UPDATE

MOD Vulcan: IW reported

The report was taken as read.

Only one health and safety incident being a bump on the head, this was dealt with and no treatment was required.

No update on environmental issues other than the previously reported spills. SEPA attended site on 31 March to discuss historical records.

Regulatory issues are being worked on to be closed out.

ONR inspections showed some shortfalls for CDM.

Vulcan are supporting several charity events this year.

TJ and IW discussed the future workings of the Vulcan site.

There were no further questions raised.

AS thanked IW.

Rolls Royce:

No one was in attendance from Rolls Royce.

Any questions will be put through the secretariat.

SEPA: SB reported

An inspection had taken place; SEPA saw no issues on site.

AS thanked SB for his update.

ONR: AP reported

ONR had limited interactions with the site so had nothing to raise.

AS thanked AP for her update.

DNSR: JB reported

The report was taken as read.

AS thanked JB

8. Shaft and Silo video

A brief video was shown in relation to the Shaft and Silo project, this will be sent to all members when possible.

9. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING

Papers showing correspondence since the last meeting were provided.

An initial discussion has been set up with the chair and vice chair of both stakeholder groups from DSG and West Cumbria SSG to hopefully find a way of collaborating in the future.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

AMEY contractors met with members of the stakeholder group. GC gave an update on this. FS said the core work for AMEY is to TUPE over cleaning and catering contracts. There was an emphasis on working with the local supply chain on future contracts. A discussion followed around this.

The next site visit proposal was discussed at the previous business meeting, the group has decided they would like to speak to the staff, and the group will be in touch with the trade unions to arrange this. A date has now been arranged.

DC raised the Elders group proposal. DC was informed there is a meeting in diaries to continue engagement on this.

TW thanked everyone for their vigilance during a cyber threat that attacked the DSG members.

AS closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their input.

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

DSG/SRSG(2026)M01/A01: Review status of Highland Council offsite emergency plan – not updated on website since 2022

Alan Scott

Site Restoration subgroup chair

22 April 2026



NDA Update for
Dounreay Stakeholder
Group
June 2026



Contents

1.0 NDA Stakeholder Update June 2026

**NDA Stakeholder Update**

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

Change of NDA Chair

Peter Hill CBE has stepped down from his role as NDA Chair to focus on his other existing and potential future board roles.

This follows a successful period involving significant achievements including reshaping the NDA Board, progressing improvements in the group's governance arrangements, leading the NDA during the 2024/25 Spending Review when it received the largest grant settlement in the group's history, delivering the 2025/26 financial year with a much improved safety record and ensuring the group is ready to deliver its refreshed strategy.

Catriona Schmolke CBE has been appointed as Interim Chair and The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) will launch a competitive external search process to find Peter's successor.

NDA Review

The Independent Review of the NDA commissioned by DESNZ and led by Dr Tim Stone CBE is now well underway.

The initial focus has been on governance and the review is now looking at a wide range of topics including projects and programmes, strategy and funding. The review team has enjoyed visits to Dounreay, Harwell and Dungeness sites and is visiting Sellafield site this week.

The review represents an opportunity to ensure the NDA continues to deliver safely, effectively, and transparently on our mission to clean up the UK's civil nuclear legacy.

Engagement priorities

The NDA group gave its first House of Lords Briefing about our mission and contribution to the UK's economy. NDA Group CEO David Peattie, Sellafield CEO Euan Hutton and Nuclear Waste Service CEO Seth Kybrid spoke at the briefing, which was hosted by Lord McNicol, Chair of the Nuclear Industry Association.

Our stakeholder survey has now closed, receiving about 150 responses. It launched in February and ran for four weeks. It looked broadly at three key measures: openness and transparency, leadership and trust. We are digesting the full set of feedback and will share results with our stakeholders in due course.



Our annual meeting and dinner between SSG chairs and group CEOs will be held in Manchester next week on June 9 and 10.

Publication updates

The latest NDA Business Plan has been published [NDA Business Plan 2026 to 2029 - GOV.UK](#)

An Economic Impact Assessment of NDA Sites has been published [Economic Impact Assessment of NDA Sites - GOV.UK](#) The report sets out the economic contribution of NDA group sites and offices to communities and the country. Key findings include:

- NDA sites contribute c. £4.1bn of value to the national economy, making up approximately 0.2% of UK economic activity.
- 56,000 jobs are created by our activities, directly and indirectly.
- The sites with the highest dependency are Dounreay, Sellafield and Wylfa.

Innovation and delivery milestones

Research, development and innovation to assess plutonium immobilisation technologies is progressing well. We are working with United Kingdom National Nuclear Laboratory (UKNNL), Nuclear Waste Services (NWS), Orano and Sellafield Ltd, to identify the technology to convert the material into a highly durable ceramic form.

A key contract has been placed to support the continued safe storage of plutonium as the UK works toward the permanent disposal of its plutonium legacy. LTi Metaltech Ltd, a UK fabrication and welding specialist, has secured a £45m contract to supply containment products for the Sellafield Product and Residue Store Retreatment Plant (SRP) on the Sellafield site.

Sellafield Ltd and Nuclear Transport Solutions (NTS) are preparing for the third and final return of high level waste (HLW) from the UK to Germany. The vitrified residues arise from reprocessing spent fuel originally used by German utilities. The shipment fulfils international contracts and delivers UK Government policy, with all movements carried out in line with national and international regulatory requirements.

Hunterston B nuclear power station in North Ayrshire has transferred ownership from EDF to the NDA for decommissioning by Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS). Government has estimated that up to £1bn of savings can be made from transfer of all seven advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR) power stations. Hinkley Point B in Somerset is due to transfer later in 2026.



NTS has received a Letter of Intent from an international customer indicating they intend to purchase Pegasus packages, designed to move high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU). The fuel is required for many small modular and advanced modular reactors, marking a significant milestone for the next generation fuel logistics market.

NWS and Sellafield Ltd have introduced a Standard Waste Container Catalogue, defining for the first time, a suite of approved radioactive waste container designs across differing waste activity levels. This standardised approach will deliver long term safety, operational and cost benefits across the estate, helping to avoid future complex repackaging.

Sellafield's Remote Technologies Group has used a contamination swabbing tool for quadruped robots, developed through the Robotics & AI Collaboration (RAICo) collaboration. The trial demonstrates how robotics could support routine health physics activities, reducing the need for people to enter potentially hazardous environments.

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



Nuclear
Decommissioning
Authority



DSG(2026)A02

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

To: DSG members and observers
Date/Time: Wednesday 3 June 2026 at 19:00
Venue: Pentland Hotel ballroom / MS Teams

AGENDA

1.	Welcome and opening remarks - Declarations of interest - DSG membership	Davie Alexander
2.	Apologies - Apologies tabled in advance - Notice of substitutes	Tina Wrighton
3.	Dounreay: High level updates: - NDA Corporate - NRS Dounreay - SEPA - ONR - CNC	Alan Mackay Dave Wilson Stewart Ballantine Govinder Sangha Chief Inspector Dave McIntosh
4.	MOD (Vulcan): High level updates: - MOD Vulcan - DNSR - SEPA - ONR	Cdr Ian Walker James Bryson Stewart Ballantine Alex Pitsillos
5.	Minutes of previous meeting DSG/PM(2026)M01 – 18 March 2026 Subgroup minutes: DSG/SESG(2026)M01: 22 April 2026 DSG/SRSG(2026)M01: 22 April 2026	Davie Alexander
6.	Status of actions	Tina Wrighton
7.	Correspondence	Davie Alexander
8.	Any other business	Davie Alexander
9.	Close	Davie Alexander

CORRESPONDENCE DISTRIBUTED SINCE LAST MEETING

CORRESPONDENCE

PAPERS

DSG(2026)P005	Rolls Royce Update, April 2026
DSG(2026)P007	ONR Report for Dounreay, January - March 2026
DSG(2026)P004	Vulcan Update, April 2026
DSG(2026)P010	DNSR Update on Vulcan, January - March 2026
DSG(2026)P006	SEPA update, April 2026
DSG(2026)P007	ONR for Vulcan, January - March 2026
DSG(2026)P001	NRS Dounreay Site Restoration update, April 2026
DSG(2026)P008	Focus North Update, April 2026
DSG(2026)P002	NRS Dounreay Socio Economic report, April 2026
DSG(2026)P009	CNC Update, April 2026
DSG(2026)P011	NDA report, June 2026
DSG(2026)P012	Scottish Government report, June 2026



DSGSESG(2026)P002

DOUNREAY SOCIO ECONOMIC UPDATE*current as of 10 April 2026*

NRS Dounreay Socio Economic Organisational Update

As of the 1st of April 2026, David Calder is Head of Socio Economics covering all of NRS and Alan Krailing is Head of Sustainability covering all of NRS. The Head of Socio Economics role continues to report into the NRS Director of Communications and Stakeholder Relations and sits on the Dounreay Leadership Team, reflecting Caithness and north Sutherland being one of the three NDA priority areas, alongside North Wales and Cumbria. Dounreay continues to have dedicated socio economic resource which continues to work collaboratively across NRS and the wider NDA Group.

Dounreay Socio Economic Annual Review

The 2024/2025 Dounreay Socio Economic Annual Review has now been [published](#). The 2025/2026 report is now being drafted and will include updated economic impact analysis which supersedes the analysis last published in 2022 (see Economic Impact Study section below).

The 2025/2026 Dounreay Employees Charity Fund Annual Report can be found in Appendix 2.

Highland Investment Plan

NRS Dounreay continues to engage with the Highland Council and Hub North on the Highland Investment Plan (HIP). Work is currently being undertaken by NRS to develop plans or support projects on office accommodation, living accommodation (housing), and innovation. NRS Dounreay are currently engaged with a supplier to develop an accommodation strategy business case.

Economic Impact Study

NRS Dounreay has been engaged through an NDA Group wide contract to develop the latest Economic Impact Study quantifying the economic impact of sites and the NDA group. The previous report was completed in 2022 and is updated on a three-year basis. A final draft report has now been received for comment and will be published in May after the election. The DSG will receive a copy in advance of publication.

Grant Funding

NRS Dounreay continues to provide pre-application support for socio economic funding. Dounreay is running a heavily pressurised budget in 2026/2027 and is expected to draw down further additional funds from the NDA as per previous years.

The continued status of socio economic grant funding activities is recorded in Appendix 1, with new projects funded in the previous quarter outlined below:

- FR-000002952 - Redevelopment of The John O' Groats Playpark (£50,000, <1yr project)
- FR-000003035 - Noss Primary School Parent Council School Trip (£10,000 <1yr project)
- FR-000003045 – Wick Community Hub (£90,000, 3 yr project)
- FR-000003076 – Apprenticeship Programme Caithness Business Fund (£150,000, 3 yr project)
- FR-000003099 - Science 03 Caithness International Science Festival 2026 – 2028 (£60,000 3 yr project)
- FR-000003090 - Community Infrastructure Support Programme (CISP) (£200,000 3 yr project, £50,000 funded)
- FR-000003089 - Community Resilience Fund (£200,000 3 yr project, £50,000 funded)
- FR-000003060 - NHI Farming Project (£200,000 3 yr project)
- FR-000003121 – Scottish Surfing Federation - Scottish National Surfing Championships (£30,000, 3 yr project)
- FR-000003111- Caithness Business Fund – FutureSkills Flexible Training Scheme (£200,000 1 yr project, £50,000 NDA funded)
- FR-000003107 – Wick Harbour Authority – River Harbour Development Wave Modelling (£10,000 1 yr project)
- FR-000003108 – North Highland Chamber of Commerce - All Energy Exhibition Stand 2026 Focus North (£12,000 1 yr project)
- FR-000003152 – Focus North Communications and Marketing Support. (£90,000, 1 yr project, £87,000 NDA Funded)

Please note the above values are the total award value from NRS Dounreay. Total project values may be higher.

Procurement

The following financial figures are for Q4 2025/2026, with the number of companies cumulative for Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4. It should be noted that the line items do not sum to any total. These numbers are provisional at end of P12 and may be liable to change.

Q4 FY25/26 Spend

- £ 32M including Mandatory Spend
- £ 22.6M of which is non mandatory and non-utility
- £ 4.4M is with 36 companies that are Caithness owned
- £ 7.3M is with 15 companies with Caithness resource*
- £ 11.7M is spent with Caithness owned or resourced suppliers
- £ 12M is with 272 SME Suppliers (Including Caithness SME)

YTD FY25/26 Spend

- £ 112.9M including Mandatory Spend
- £ 79.4M of which is non mandatory and non-utility
- £ 14.9M is with 44 companies that are Caithness owned
- £ 26.1M is with 16 companies with Caithness resource*
- £ 41.0M is spent with Caithness owned or resourced suppliers
- £ 34.5M is with 424 SME Suppliers (Including Caithness SME)

*Includes some mandatory spend

FY = Financial Year, YTD = Year to Date

The socio economics team, working with the commercial team, continue to improve how Dounreay sets, assesses, and monitors social value across in scope procurements. Dounreay continues to manage social value commitments from procurement.

Staffing

Recruitment continues to be carefully managed. Dounreay shares full details of all internal and external recruitment with the DSG Business Group to ensure transparency. No new updates were provided in the last quarter however offers to the new cohort of graduates have been sent out (19 of 20 accepted to date) and apprenticeship interviews have taken place with offers due out shortly.

Mutually Agreed Voluntary Exit (MAVE) has now taken place with circa 22 roles going and circa 70 people leaving the business.

As of the 1st of April 2026, 68 decommissioning operatives, managers, and support staff from GDES, Morson, and Nuvia have TUPE transferred and joined NRS Dounreay.

Awards

Three Dounreay nominees were awarded runner up status at the National Skills Academy for Nuclear (NSAN) Awards in March. The finalists were, David James in the Graduate category, Fallon Campbell in the Apprentice category and the FutureSkills initiative developed in conjunction with the North Highland Chamber of Commerce in the People Power category.



STEM

Dounreay is engaged on developing a new STEM strategy, with work delayed from end of Q4 to engage further stakeholders.

STEM activity in the last quarter has focussed on the First Lego League North Highland Tournament with NRS Dounreay funding the winning team from Newton Park Primary to attend the UK Final in Harrogate on 24 April 2026.



In addition support has been provided for Goblin car racing. There are 9 cars being built at 8 primary schools across Caithness, supported by NRS Dounreay engineers and apprentices and Rolls Royce apprentices. NRS Dounreay is funding the teams' travel and accommodation to allow them to compete at Alford on 12 June 2026.

Furthermore, NRS Dounreay supported the Caithness Science Festival held at Wick High School, where representatives from Training, Waste, Engineering/Drone Team, and our graduate cohort came together to inspire the next generation of scientists

and engineers. Financial support was also provided through the socio economic grant funding programme.



Dounreay Heritage

James Gunn has now retired from Dounreay. James has provided regular updates to the DSG on heritage as well as his valued contribution to site for many years and we wish him the best in his retirement. NRS heritage is now handled at Nucleus; The nuclear and Caithness archive facility, by archivist Jamie McCaffrey.

His final heritage update is provided in Appendix 3.

Visits to Dounreay

- N/A this quarter

**Magnus Davidson,
NRS Dounreay Socio Economics Manager**

10/04/2026

Appendix 1**Rolling status of socio economic grant funding activities**

Funded Project	Completion date	Progress	Comments
CNSRP (Focus North) support hub	30/03/2024		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £487,000 Yr 4 (25/26): £103k* carry over £95,0404 paid to date £8,637 accrual for FY 26/27
Caithness Transport Forum	31/03/2027		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £30,000 Yr 2 (25/26): £10,000 £10,000 paid to date.
Focus North Programme Manager	31/03/2027		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: Up to £124,830 Yr 2 (25/26): Up to £40,000 £37,050 paid to date
STEM activities	N/A		Funding commitment: ongoing Total annual award £25,000 £14,125 paid to date
Dounreay Community Fund	N/A		Funding commitment: ongoing Total annual award £35,000 £40,845 paid to date £24,305 committed and accrued
Ormlie Community Association	30/09/2026		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £60,000 Yr 3: £20,000 £20k paid to date
Dunbeath and District Centre	31/12/2026		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £ 149,630 Yr 3: £24,938 £24,938 paid to date
Science Skills Academy Newton Room Thurso	01/06/2028		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £128,000 Yr 1: £40,000 £20k paid to date
North Coast Visitor Centre (Highlife Highland)	31/10/2027		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award £265,000 Yr 1: £75,000 £75k paid to date
Community Plan and Delivery (Thurso Community Development Trust)	30/09/2027		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £200,000 Yr 1: £66,666

Funded Project	Completion date	Progress	Comments
			£66,666 paid to date
Masterplan Delivery Officer (UpNorth! CDT)	01/03/2027		Funding commitment: 2 years Total award: £36,551 Yr 2: £18,177 £18,177 paid to date
Destination Strategy and Venture North (CCoC)	31/03/2028		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £342,000 Yr 1: £121,084 £121,084 paid to date
Apprenticeship Programme (CBF)	31/03/2027		Funding commitment: 2 years Total award: £150,000 Yr 1: £150,000 £150k paid to date
Future Skills Graduate Scheme	31/03/2027		Funding commitment: 2 years Total award: £100,000 Yr 1: £100,000 £100k paid to date
Association of the Northern Trails, Trail Development Manager	01/07/2027		Funding commitment: 1 year Total award: £35,000 Yr 1: £35,000 £26,250 paid to date
Sidh Chailleann Art – Caithness Art and Stone Festival	30/06/2026		Funding commitment: 1 year Total award: £11,970 Yr 1: £11,970 £11,970 paid to date
Caithness CAB, Community Outreach	01/10/2028		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £176,644 Yr 1: £58,147 £58,417 paid to date
Wick Harbour Authority 2025 Masterplan	21/03/2026		Funding commitment: <1 year Total award: £23,888 £23,888 paid to date
Redevelopment of the John O' Groats Playpark	31/10/2026		Funding commitment: < 1 year Total award: £50,000 £50,000 paid to date
Noss Primary School Parent Council School Trip	14/05/2026		Funding commitment: < 1 year Total award: £10,000 £0 paid to date
Wick Community Hub	31/01/2029		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £90,000 Yr 1: £30,000 £30,000 paid to date
Apprenticeship Programme Caithness Business Fund	28/02/2027		Funding commitment: 1 year Total award: £150,000 £150,000 paid to date

Funded Project	Completion date	Progress	Comments
Science 03 Caithness International Science Festival	31/03/2028		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £60,000 Yr 1: £20,000 £20,000 paid to date
Community Infrastructure Support Programme (NHI)	31/03/2029		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £200,000 Yr 1: £66,667 £66,667 paid to date
Community Resilience Fund (NHI)	30/04/2029		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £200,000 Yr 1: £50,000 £paid to date
NHI Farm Project	31/03/2029		Funding commitment: 3 year Total award: £200,000 Yr 1: £51,553 £0 paid to date
Caithness Business Fund FutureSkills Flexible Training Scheme	31/03/2027		Funding commitment: 3 year Total award: £200,000 £125,000 paid to date
Scottish Surfing Federation National Championships	01/04/2029		Funding commitment: 3 year Total award: £30,000 Yr 1: £15,000 £15,000 paid to date
Wick Harbour Authority River Harbour Wave Modelling	31/04/2026		Funding commitment: <1 year Total award: £10,000 £0 paid to date
North Highland Chamber of Commerce (Focus North) All Energy Stand	14/05/2026		Funding commitment: < 1 year Total award: £12,000 £0 paid to date
Focus North Communications and Marketing Support	31/03/2027		Funding commitment: < 1 year Total award: £90,000 £0 paid to date

Appendix 2 Dounreay Employees Charity Fund



Annual Report 2025/26

Introduction

The aim of the Dounreay Employees Charity Fund is to grant assistance, on behalf of Dounreay employees to local charities and non-profit making organisations within Caithness and North Sutherland or that benefit the community. The DECF is funded by Dounreay employees through monthly deductions from their salaries.

Grant funding during 2025/26

During the FY 25/26 the DECF had 21 requests with 18 of these being approved by the committee: amounting to £16,595.

Key highlights of the year included the donation of proceeds from *The Atomics* book to the DECF, supported by a promotional stand at the Mey Games. In addition, the DECF held a stall at the Wellbeing Fayre during October.

Money granted to Lybster FC for new nettings at the pitch in Lybster.



£1,000 to team tender for the charity cycle trek.



£3,000 to Caithness FM Toy Appeal



Appendix 3 Dounreay Heritage Initiative

Progress report – January to March 2026

Collection of objects

A total of 506 objects have been collected since 2008. No objects were collected in the period.

Recording of memories

A process to capture the memories of those leaving the site is in place. A form with seven questions is sent to leavers, and it is voluntary to complete it. Three forms were returned in the period.

Dounreay history

Dounreay's 70th anniversary was celebrated throughout 2025 and to mark this milestone a book was written by James Gunn and Thurso journalist Iain Grant. The title is, "The Atomics: the story of Dounreay's people".

The book has been selling very well with over 1,000 copies sold, raising around £15,000 for the Dounreay Employees Charity Fund.

It is available to buy at the NRS Dounreay public information office, the North Coast Visitor Centre, and on-line from the Porto Press website, www.portopress.com. The price is £17.99 for the paperback.

Dounreay Reminiscence Group

The popular Dounreay Reminiscence Group (DRG) continued with monthly sessions. The January session was a presentation by a former employee about the early operating years of PFR. Current staff from PFR and three graduates were among the audience of 40. This was the highest ever attendance. This is a great example of two-way knowledge exchange between generations.

The February session was a talk by an employee involved in the use of drones at Dounreay. The presentation included an appearance by the robotic dog "Spot" who proceeded to walk around the foyer at Nucleus causing much delight and photo opportunities. The talk on 26th March will be the last one before the sessions restart in October.

Miscellaneous

James Gunn, Heritage Officer since 2008, will retire on 31 March 2026. An interview by the Communications manager with James will feature in the March 2026 edition of the Dounreay News. James joined Dounreay in 1978 as a Scientific Trainee (48 years ago).

Complied by

James Gunn

NRS Dounreay Information & Knowledge Manager

12 March 2026

Focus North Programme Update

DSG Socioeconomic subgroup meeting 22nd April 2026

Summary

The programme priority areas continue.

- Developing a programmatic approach to Thurso Point of Delivery.
- Developing the business plan for the North Highland Innovation centre.
- Housing and accommodation - developing pilots and full-scale implementation.
- Supporting talent attraction.
- Engagement with young people.
- Support for business plan and implementation for the long term PSO.
- Support for other area priority plans as identified and agreed.
- Support for FCP to achieve first carbon sales/investment.
- All Energy event preparation and promotion.

Wick John O' Groats Airport

Short term PSO has now been agreed with a new provider (Air Charter Scotland) and an extension to allow this to continue until August has been approved. The follow on PSO business plan previously submitted is under active discussion with ministerial approval awaited. The tender process for this is underway with compliant bids received and evaluation underway.

Resourcing and next steps

The short-term contract now covers the period until the next PSO process is completed (assuming ministerial approval). There is an opportunity to maximise passenger uptake until August to demonstrate growth and potential future markets.

Industry Forum

The Industry Forum 'baseline' indicates an additional circa 800 full time permanent jobs being created in the area by 2035. Next step is to drill into the detail of types of roles to develop pipeline opportunities for young people and training capacity.

Resourcing of next steps

Dounreay as lead partner on this strand of activity are providing resource to support. UHI are sharing information on how this has been successfully undertaken in Stornoway.

Point of Delivery and Innovation centre opportunities

Highland Council Point of Delivery (PoD) in Thurso – This project continues to develop at pace with key engineering contractors appointed. Concurrently: - NRS Dounreay is examining its facilities for off-site staff; UHI is reviewing its estate needs and seeking to develop a lifelong learning campus; The innovation centre business plan is being developed; HIE is reviewing business premises needs; and there is need for rapid action on housing and accommodation. NHS Scotland may also have a need to develop services in conjunction with the PoD - these have not yet been identified or factored in.

Resourcing and next steps

To progress these opportunities the Thurso Transformation Delivery Group has been formed and has been meeting regularly and a comms group is now operating, chaired by Hub North Scotland. The governance structure has been outlined through a draft memorandum understanding for the key partners involved. An initial workshop to go through how this will operate his plan for the 24th of April.

[working title:] North Highland Innovation Centre. Neil James is acting as project manager and is now co-ordinating efforts to develop an outline business plan.

Skills and Talent attraction

Meeting the current and future workforce needs for the region continues to be a key priority.

Retention - Raising awareness amongst locals and particularly young people of the significant opportunities both immediate and in the future: -

- **School engagement**

- **Dee Bleakley** returned to Thurso and Wick High Schools last month and attended Farr High for the first time.
 - Thurso covered self-awareness and habit forming with S2 students (approx. 115)
 - Wick covered successful individuals with S1 students (approx. 108)
 - Farr covered confidence/presentation skills with S3 students (approx. 15) and study skills with S4-6 students (approx. 27).
- **The Minecraft Education programme ' Reinventing our Region'**, adapted from Minecraft's *Reinventing Cities* initiative, has successfully concluded at Wick and Thurso High Schools, giving S1 pupils an inspiring opportunity to reimagine the future of their communities through creativity, collaboration and digital design. Delivered by Focus North with support from Highland Council's Youth Work and Adult Learning Team, the programme challenged pupils to design sustainable, community-focused versions of Caithness using Minecraft Education, while building confidence, teamwork and problem-solving skills. Despite a major IT setback that caused the loss of their work near the end of the project, both school teams demonstrated outstanding resilience and determination by rebuilding their designs from scratch. Their achievements were celebrated at a special event on 24 March at Wick High School, where pupils presented their final projects and received individual awards including the Eco-Schools Scotland Green Leadership Award, the Youth Scotland Dynamic Youth Award and the YouthLink Scotland Participative Democracy Certificate, while each school was also presented with a PlayStation 5 console, generously supported by local business Amentum, to help encourage future learning and digital creativity.
- **Powering Futures** – NRS Dounreay are now a regional partner, supporting the delivery of this 30-week Higher-equivalent programme for S5/6 pupils. A highlight of the year was the Powering Futures Live event held at Ross County Football Club on 16th March, which provided an inspiring platform for students from across the Highlands and Moray to present their final assessments to an expert panel. The standard of presentations was outstanding, with pupils showcasing imaginative, well-researched solutions to real-world sustainability challenges. It was particularly impressive to see young people working confidently in teams, communicating their ideas with clarity and professionalism, and clearly stepping beyond their comfort zones. The energy and ambition on display at Ross County underlined the impact of the programme in building future-ready skills and confidence, and highlighted the strength of emerging talent across the region. **Delivered in Wick High School – Thurso still in discussion; Resource constraints making this challenging for Farr High.** [Powering Futures](#)

- **Parents and Teachers** – We continue to seek opportunities to engage with to provide updates and information.
- **Work experience** – This has been repeatedly identified is a vital way of highlighting opportunities to local young people and Highland Council are implementing a new system to expand these opportunities.
- **Youth perceptions survey** – NRS Dounreay and HIE are currently looking at an appropriate procurement approach to run an engagement with young people seeking their views of living and working in north Highland.

Attraction – outreach activities to raise the profile of regional opportunities and support working age migration to the area.

- **Live North** – the talent attraction initiative run by the North Highland Chamber of commerce has formally launched with ongoing support from partners. [Live North – Helping you move and find Jobs in Highlands](#).

Resourcing and next steps

Further developments will align with Talent attraction needs as identified.

Communications

All-Energy Conference: Partners are collaborating to have significant presence at this year's All-Energy Event in Glasgow on the 13th and 14th of May. A Focus North themed stand has been procured, and a number of partner and business organisations have indicated they will attend using that as a base. [All-Energy Exhibition & Conference | Renewable Energy Event](#) A Communications plan is in train. Goal is to raise the area profile, increase inward investor interest in local projects and facilities and promote the region as a great place to work, live, study, and visit.

TTDG: The Focus North website continues to be a key hub for TTDG information. The dedicated TTDG page is currently being refreshed, with work underway to rethink the layout and structure to better support regular updates and partner content. A communications sub-group has been formed and is meeting regularly to coordinate activity. The group is developing a series of short videos to highlight upcoming work within Thurso, with an initial focus on the Community POD.

Housing and accommodation

Talent attraction, accommodation and housing issues are identified as a growing barrier to attracting new talent to the area. A region wide housing needs demand survey is underway being undertaken by Arneil-Johnson on behalf of Highland Council with report anticipated later in the year. A Senior HIE Development Manager is co-ordinating an action plan built from extensive engagement with the industry, developers and seeking to identify demand. Investigation has shown that despite demand there is still a gap between development on demand.

Resourcing and next steps

A Senior HIE Development Manager is co-ordinating an action plan built from extensive engagement with the industry, developers and seeking to identify demand. A key short-term challenge is to mobilise development of permanent housing solutions to meet SSEN's (via their tier one contractor Murphy's) short term workforce needs commencing in early 2027. Several potential projects have been identified and mobilisation to get these built is proving to be a challenge particularly as time is very much of the essence.

Peatlands restoration

PF continues to provide general management support for Flow Country Partnership SCIO (FCP), although diminishing as the Flow Country Partnership Manager is now in post. In particular commercial development needs additional support. The two completed projects are working through validation 4 units created. A pilot third restoration including a common grazings continues to be developed with restoration targeted for winter '26. Work to build a tourism and visitor strategy continues.

Resourcing and next steps

Immediate follow-on financing through further grant agreements has been partly secured to cover costs of existing team to allow continued progression. Short term cashflow is being managed using short term commercial finance. Two significant carbon purchase opportunities are being discussed.

Just Transition Commission 2025-6

Following the Just Transition Commission¹ visit to Caithness on the 7th and 8th of May 2025, and the Just Transition summit on the 29th October in Edinburgh the Commission chose to launch its national report in Thurso on the 19th of February at a well-attended and well covered event.

Resourcing and next steps

The commission has been approached to highlight the advantage of engaging with Caithness and Sutherland as a pilot area to measure impact of pilot activities. We'll continue to liaise and explore options as the new commissions' remit becomes clear.

Space Industry Update

HIE continue to look at options and engage with relevant parties on these.

Resourcing and next steps

In the short-term Focus North will continue a holding brief until the future direction is clear or specific opportunities arise that need support.

Team

Focus North Independent Chair – Initial process didn't attract suitable applicants; exploration of options is still underway.

Peter Faccenda
Focus North Programme Manager

Vicky Rosie
Admin and Comms Officer

¹ [Just Transition Commission](#)



Performance report to DSG Site Restoration Sub Group
For the period 1 January 2026 – 31 March 2026

NRS Dounreay delivery business key points

This reporting period marks the close of the financial year 2025/26. It has been marked by a strong improvement in mission delivery against our commitment, a constructive engagement with our regulators in resolving existing improvement and enforcement actions against the site and a sustained focus on Health, Safety, Safeguard and Environment performance with a special focus on conventional safety performance.

On delivery, Dounreay has completed every one of its committed milestones during the year, most of them at stretch. In this period in particular, key targets have been achieved in completing the DCP Store Extension 2 ready for inactive commissioning, preparing for the active filter change in D1206 and developing the 5 year assets stabilization plan.

Our regulatory return-to-routine plan continues to address the enforcement letters and one improvement notice that remains open, with those relevant to COMAH and DSEAR expected to be closed in the very near term. Progress continues to be made towards exiting enhanced regulatory attention.

On asset condition, most (15 out of 16) planned interventions listed against the site relevant operating target have been achieved and a high volume of remedial work has also been successfully undertaken following storms impact over the winter. This is in the context of the highest investment of the site in asset related work of the recent years.

Over the period, the site has also focused on preparing to start strongly for the next financial year, and to further increase the pace of its delivery. This is in line with the outcome of the 2026 NRS business planning (rolling 5 year window), which has allocated a growing share of resources to Dounreay (increase year on year for the next 5 years) in recognition of the prioritization of high hazard risk reduction and the need to implement an asset recovery in the context of an extended decommissioning timeline.

Operational, enabling and programme delivery target status

All operating and enabling targets have been completed at stretch for this year, except for breeder fuel which was competed on target. As indicated above, all delivery targets were competed for the year, most of them at stretch.

Programme Delivery Update

Reactors Programme

Progress on Reactors projects has been demonstrated by the closeout of the ONR improvement notice for alkali metal storage improvements, the related demolition of the DN026, and the removal of sodium buckets in PFR which is a prerequisite to the restart of the ILW (Intermediate Level Waste) route from the IFC (Irradiated Fuel Cave). DFR breeder drilling operations (to release trapped fuel) and EC&I commissioning activities were accelerated whilst fuel element transfer from the reactor to D2160 process cell suite was paused, to allow D2160 manipulator and associated equipment to be repaired. Year-to-date 30 breeder fuel elements have been transferred to D2160, with on target being met on 12/02/2026. Recovery equipment repairs are progressing and fuel moves expected to re-start in April 2026.

Fuel Cycle Area Programme

D1206 - The GKT was achieved on the target date of 31/03/26 and the containment and breathing air commissioning is now complete. This now ensure the active filter change project is able to move to the next step (including manned entries).

D1203 storage bank 1 Phase 2 containment complete in preparation for decommissioning

D1210 Pre-demolition works continuing

D1204 – The GKT was achieved with the submission of the D1204 pond strategy & action plan for management of leaks. This paper includes the emergency response instructions and forward actions required to implement these instructions.

Balance of Site Programme

Shaft and Silo

During this period, the programme business case (PBC) was endorsed at the NDA Group Investment Committee in February 2026 and is continuing its socialising and review journey through NDA board and ministerial committees.

Silo assessment: priority actions being taken to address technical and safety queries with the silo structure degradation study now completed and follow on actions started (removal of loading on the structure).

Advanced transition works- successful demolition of all above ground civil structures around shaft top (including control room demolition). Site prepared and work progressed allowing the start of phase 2 construction.

D1211 Sludge sampling: All site-based work in readiness for sampling complete. Start of work delayed while investigating laboratory capabilities to carry out works.

DCP Store extension 2

GKT achieved in period with the site ready for handing over to inactive commissioning. The building was powered up for the first time in early April.

EHSSQ performance

Environmental, security and safeguards performance remain largely stable, with nuclear and radiological performance remaining controlled and compliant. Conventional safety, however, continues to be the principal driver of adverse performance indicators, particularly slip, trip and fall events, which continue to push the TRIR upward (0.52 in Feb/March following 0.46 in Jan). While targeted controls (Safety pause, slip/trip campaign, plant walkdowns) have been deployed, human performance variability and inconsistent task planning remain underlying contributors.

Regulatory enforcement

The site remains in enhanced regulatory attention for safety, aligned with NRS own assessment that performance improvements are visible but not yet mature or sustained.

Control of the risk presented by dangerous substances and explosive atmospheres regulations enforcement letter – an updated delivery programme has been sent to ONR and the final evidence pack is being developed. Awaiting final engagement with ONR for closure.

COMAH Lower tier – level 3 regulatory issue enforcement letter – the final environmental risk assessments are going through due process. Compliance documentation delivery on schedule and will be included in the ONR’s inspection in June 2026.

FCA Carbon Bed Filter RN (RN/2025-001): SEPA has confirmed NRS has met the requirements of Step 1-3 on the regulatory notice and returned to compliance with standard condition G1.2. Step 4 - Contract has been awarded and plan being developed.

Non-Active drain RN (RN/2025-003): the management system documentation has been reviewed, and all inspections are now complete with evidence and level 2 assurance check complete. The final report is undergoing internal governance and will be issued to SEPA on time.

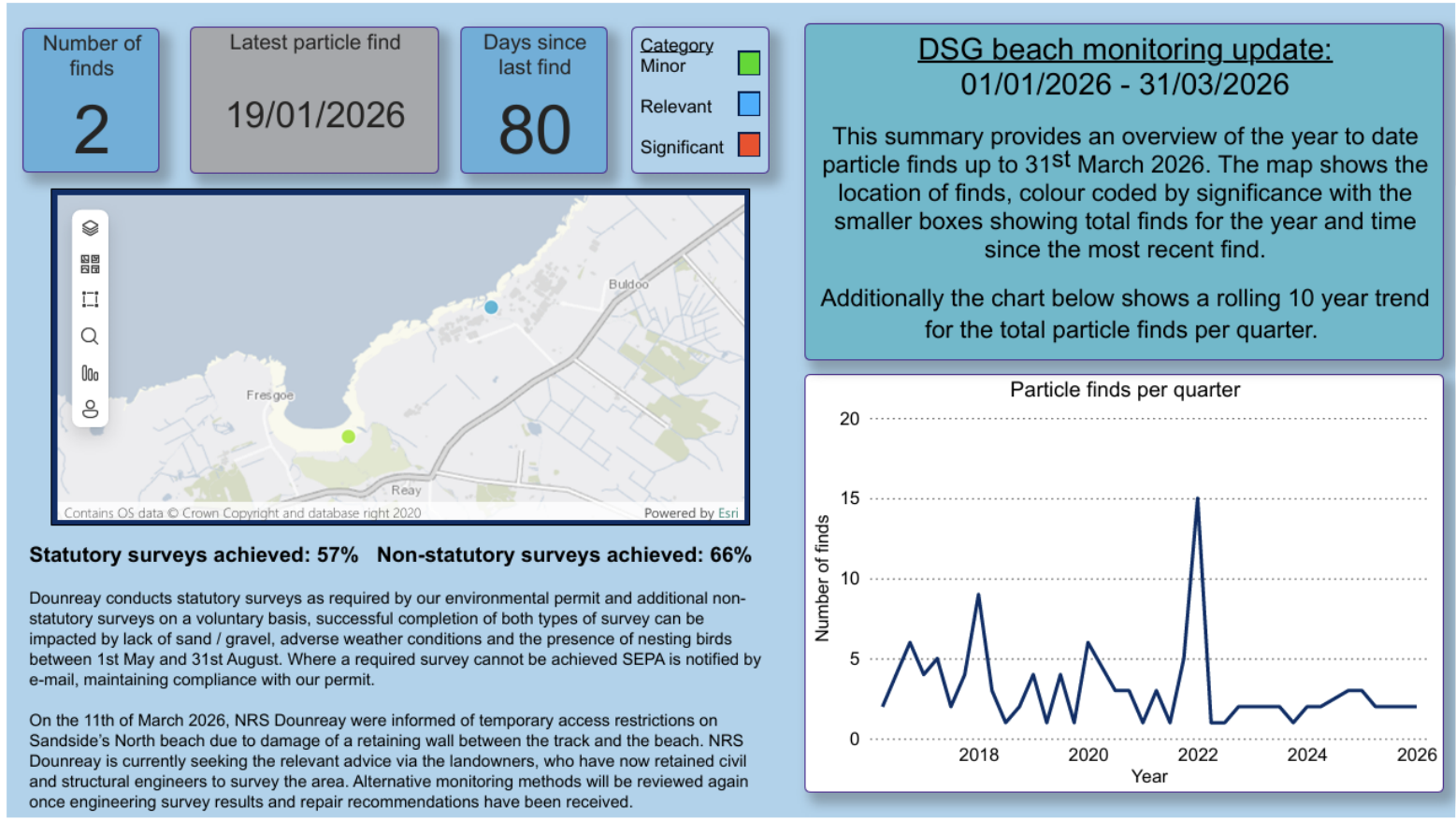
In period, NRS-D has notified SEPA of two potential non-compliances:
A sample of effluent taken from Milliscreen 3 returned a suspended solids result of 428.5mg/l which exceeds that limit within the site waste management licence. Non-compliance against condition 8.1.2.
Non-compliance notified to SEPA during this period against the EASR18 permit on the expiry of a radioactive material co-ordinator (RMC) appointment. Non-compliance against A5.1

There were three security, and no safeguards, incident (INF1s) in period.
Security management system Fault (Jan 26) - security management system impacted for several days until the root cause of the fault identified.
Misplaced laptop at home (Jan 26) - site staff member could not locate laptop after festive standdown and immediately reported misplaced. The laptop was found at home during February.
PFR transformer maintenance event (Feb 26) - security management system impacted for several days due to an electrical isolation issue.

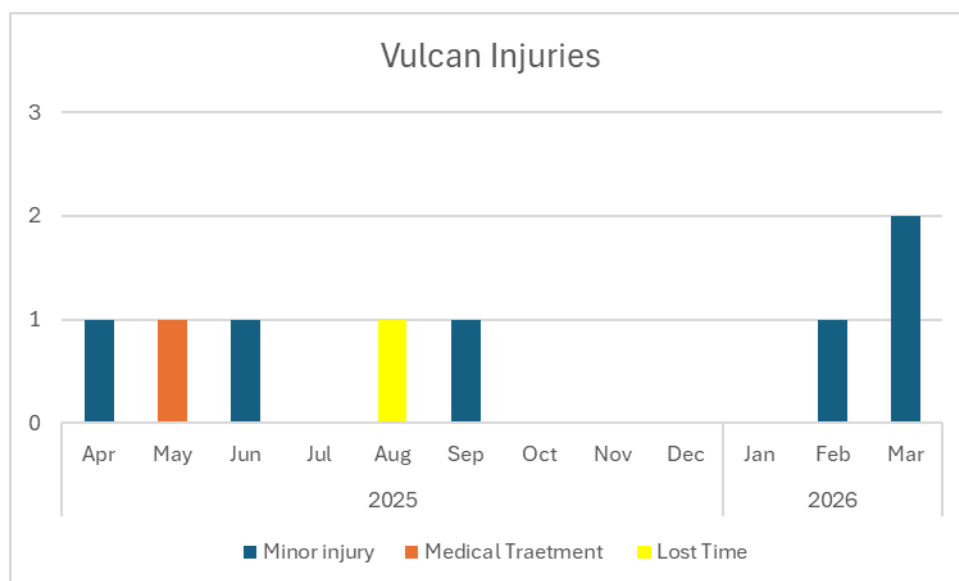
Onshore Monitoring of radioactive particles

All information and updates can be found on the Dounreay environmental monitoring website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/onshore-monitoring-of-radioactive-particles>



VULCAN NRTE Report to the DSG – April 2026



Health and Safety

Since last report to the DSG subgroup in January, Vulcan has had no lost time accidents or injuries. Unfortunately, we have had 3 minor injuries in this period.

- Feb – Minor cut to hand in the Pond area that was only noticed afterwards, injured person was unable to determine when it happened. no contamination was found, and a plaster was applied. Injured person returned to work.
- March – A burn on the arm received in the canteen by brushing against the steamer, cold water was run over the injury and the staff member returned to work.
- March – Minor bump on the head, which was received after changing a bin and when standing up hit their head on an open key safe.

Environment

Work continues to resolve the other non-conformances discovered during the internal review of the conventional discharge permits. A report is in production which will advise on updates that should be requested for the Licenses, for example, the correction of grid references and changes to discharge limits

On 31 December 2025, the permitted thresholds for the presence of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) were changed. Work has been completed to accommodate this change, but during this process we identified other aspects of management of PCBs which may not fully align with the requirements. Thus, we are undertaking a review to determine if any improvements need to be made.

Radioactive Waste Disposal

There have been no challenges to the Approval of Arrangements (AoA) limits during this period.

At the end of February 2026, the annual rolling discharge (expressed as a percentage against the maximum detailed in the SEPA letter of agreement) was:

	Type	Percentage
Gaseous	Noble Gases	0%
	Other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together.	3.5%
Liquid	Cobalt 60	0.004%
	All other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together.	0.0002%
	Tritium	0.005%
Solid	Number of Drums sent	214 Drums

Vulcan continues to transfer drums containing solid Low-Level Waste (LLW) to Dounreay with 35 drums being transferred during the last reporting period.

Work continues to: (a) produce a new reporting tool, (b) review the gaseous discharge sampling methodology, and (c) review and correct historic discharge records.

Site Programme

We have now completed the process of design, manufacturing and commissioning for the next work package which was agreed under the written ministerial statement on Vulcan's future laid out in March 2025. This work has now commenced, and we once again are collecting data to support the submarine enterprise.

Events

Since the last Subgroup meeting, there has been no events reported to DNSR or ONR in accordance with their mandatory reporting criteria.

Since the last written brief we have reported two separate environmental events to SEPA, both concerning the spillages of small volume of petrol / diesel fuel. The first of these was a leak from a contractor vehicle when transiting onto site, and the second was a spill from a fuel can while decanting fuel into a staff member's car in the car park. Both events were discussed in the DSG Verbal brief in March, and there have been no concerns raised by SEPA in this time.

Emergency Arrangements

The Emergency Planning team have prepared this year's training schedule and has begun preparations for our site exercise in May and our Level 1 demonstration exercise, LONESTAR which is scheduled for June. The SECUREX is scheduled for November.

Regulatory Inspections / Audits

DNSR conducted an AC28 audit and raised no findings although we await the formal report.

We have continued to progress the level 3 regulatory issue this period by means of a working group to review our arrangements. The review of our arrangements found a required update to four of our site documents. These have been completed and forwarded to ONR along with a request for closure of this part of the findings.

Liaising with the ONR we managed to close the issue with Active Equipment store stabilisation works allowing this work to be completed.

The measures put in place limiting building works on site remain extant until we can prove these new processes and fully close the regulatory issue.

At the end of March, SEPA conducted an inspection of our progress on developing a new Discharge Reporting Tool. Overall, this was a productive visit, and a follow up visit is planned for the early summer.

Vulcan Decommissioning Programme

The Site continues with the hazard reduction programme, identifying and removing redundant equipment from site. We continue work on the Bandsaw with storage options being explored. We also continue to look at removing old transport containers among other items from site.

Other

The Site held a bake sale and raffle on 17 March, with £777.05 being raised for the John O'Groats Play Park.



pp DT Chisholm
Deputy Naval Superintendent

I Walker
Commander Royal Navy
Naval Superintendent Vulcan

Rolls-Royce – Submarines
Vulcan Business Operations Update: April 2026

Rolls-Royce puts safety first and as such I'm pleased to confirm we have experienced no incidents of note since my last update to the group.

There have been no material changes to our business priorities since my last update to the group. As per my last input, our primary operational priority is the safe and timely delivery of our current programmes in support of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Submarines Enterprise. Rolls-Royce also continues to provide support to MOD in reviewing the process, operating model and indicative schedule options for the potential transfer of the Vulcan site decommissioning accountabilities to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) once MOD foresees no further requirement for the site in support of UK Defence. The mix of skills and capabilities at Vulcan is unique within the Submarines Enterprise, so in this context Rolls-Royce also continues 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, both at the Vulcan site, and in the longer term should we ultimately no longer enjoy access to the current site.

Our Rolls-Royce apprentice pipelines continues and remains fully populated and we are delighted that the recruitment process for our 2026 intake is well advanced, with assessment centres recently held to this end. More broadly, overall rates of both absence and attrition within the Rolls-Royce Vulcan team remain low.

Liam Hamilton
Director – Vulcan & IFM
Rolls-Royce Submarines Limited

Dounreay Site Stakeholder Group

Site Restoration Sub-Group



SEPA organisational update

With effect from 1st April 2026 a new structure in relation to SEPA's Radioactive Substances function came into effect. The Regulation and Science teams now sit within the Specialist Regulation function under Gary Walker and the Policy and Guidance team sits within the Office of the Chief Regulator under Paul Dale.

Site Inspection Work & EASR Compliance

During the reporting period SEPA has engaged regularly with Dounreay at a programme level or directly with project teams or facilities on matters including permit compliance, waste management, FCA decommissioning, Reactor decommissioning, Balance of Site projects including Shaft & Silo, laboratory activities and beach monitoring.

In March SEPA undertook a compliance inspection at the Dounreay site of NRS' arrangements in relation to the assessment of permit compliance following identification of issues and the provision of notification to SEPA of actual or potential permit contraventions.

In its inspection findings SEPA made a number of recommendations in relation to NRS' investigation arrangements. SEPA recorded NRS as compliant with the following standard conditions:

- A.9.1, relating to the requirement to inform SEPA where a requirement of your authorisation is being, has been, or might be contravened
- A.9.2, relating to the requirements to confirm the information in the notification in writing, carry out an investigation, record the investigation results, ensure corrective measures are carried out and send a summary of your investigation to SEPA
- A.1.1, relating to the requirement to have adequate financial and human resources
- A.3.1, relating to the requirement to have, implement and maintain written procedures

As previously reported, in July 2025 SEPA issued a Regulatory Notice to NRS in relation to the leak of radioactively contaminated water from the D2001 Carbon Bed Filter (CBF) to ground on the Dounreay site. The Regulatory Notice included steps requiring NRS to: review the groundwater monitoring arrangements; produce a programme for the implementation of recommendations from the review of groundwater monitoring arrangements and assess ongoing

compliance with standard condition G.1.2 in relation to discharges from the CBF. NRS has provided SEPA with its responses to these three steps, which SEPA has reviewed. SEPA's compliance assessment concluded that NRS has addressed the requirements of Steps 1, 2 and 3 of the Regulatory Notice and has returned to compliance with standard condition G.1.2.

Low Level Radioactive Waste Facility

SEPA continue to engage with the LLWF team on a regular basis and are content that the facility continues to operate in a compliant manner.

Non-Nuclear Site Regulation

Nothing to note.

Vulcan

Nothing to note.

Stewart Ballantine

Radioactive Substances Unit

For information on accessing this document in an alternative format or language, please contact SEPA by emailing equalities@sepa.org.uk

If you are a user of British Sign Language (BSL), the Contact Scotland BSL service gives you access to an online interpreter, enabling you to communicate with us using sign language.

contactscotland-bsl.org

OFFICIAL



Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR site report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd – Dounreay

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

ONR site report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd - Dounreay

Report for period: 1 January – 31 March 2026

Authored by: Safety Inspector

Approved by:

Issue: 1

Published: April 2026

Record reference:

Foreword

This report is issued as part of our commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. Reports are distributed to members for the Dounreay Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on our website: www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/llcssg-reports.

Our site inspectors usually attend Dounreay Site Stakeholder Group meetings where these reports are presented and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact us via email at contact@onr.gov.uk.

OFFICIAL

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2. Routine matters

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4. Regulatory activity

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6. Contacts

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1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of inspection

Our site inspectors made no inspections during the report period 1 January – 31 March 2026.

2. Routine matters

2.1. Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

- the Energy Act 2013;
- regulations made under the Energy Act 2013, for example the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 and the Nuclear Safeguards (EU Exit) Regulations 2019;
- the conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended);
- the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSWA74); and
- regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

The inspections entail monitoring the licensee's actions on the site in relation to incidents, operations, maintenance, projects, modifications, safety case changes and any other matters that may affect legal compliance. The licensee is required to make and implement adequate arrangements under the conditions attached to the licence to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, interactions with Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) Ltd - Dounreay covered the following:

- To review through structured regulatory interface meetings the progress being made to implement improvements designed to return the site to routine regulatory attention.

Members of the public who would like further information on our inspection activities during the reporting period can view site inspection records on our website:

www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/inspection-records.

In addition:

- During the reporting period we have remained informed of all major site activities that may affect nuclear safety, security and conventional health and safety and will continue to undertake proportionate assessment activities necessary to support the release of regulatory hold-points placed on a number of the projects on site, as appropriate.

Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email contact@onr.gov.uk.

2.2. Other work

Our inspectors continue to conduct formal reviews of the site's progress in delivering a number of agreed improvement activities. The three main topics areas are:

- safety leadership
- assets in a degraded condition
- health and safety compliance

During the reporting period our site inspector held meetings with safety representatives, to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety, and welfare at work.

3. Non-routine matters

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. Our inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

The following incidents were reported to us within this reporting period:

- An incident was reported in January when a contactor working on a roof, on site, slipped and fell on to the roof surface they were walking on and suffered an injury to their ribs. The worker did not fall from height. The injuries sustained were minor but required a recovery period greater than seven days. We have reviewed NRS-Dounreay's follow up to this event and considered this incident was appropriately managed by the dutyholder.

4. Regulatory activity

We may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, we issue regulatory documents, which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken. These are usually collectively termed licence instruments but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an enforcement notice.

- No licence instruments, enforcement notices or enforcement letters were issued during this period.]

Commented [AP1]: I wouldnt include this - this section is about licence instruments and enforcement etc

I added in the template text above

Commented [GS2R1]: spot on thanks

5. News from ONR

For the latest updates and information on our work, please subscribe to our regular email newsletter, ONR News, at www.onr.org.uk/news/newsletter.

6. Contacts

Office for Nuclear Regulation
Redgrave Court
Merton Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7HS
Website: www.onr.org.uk
Email : contact@onr.gov.uk

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For published documents, the electronic copy on our website remains the most current publicly available version and copying or printing renders this document uncontrolled.

References

There are no sources in the current document.

CNC Update – DSG SRSG

- Initial Foundation Programme (IFP) 110 beginning 15/04/2026 with 6 officers for Dounreay and 4 for our non-nuclear sites in Aberdeen. Policing skills and Public and Personal Safety Training (PPST) carried out at Dounreay. The Firearms portion of the course will be done at Firearms Training Unit South – Bisley.
- Planning work from HR Recruitment indicates that we will get between 3-5 candidates onboarded for the next 3 IFP courses which will be very beneficial in dealing with our staffing issues and bring us close to our establishment figure.
- Part of this success attributed to our relocation support initiative - [CNC Jobs | RelocateToDounreay](#)
- Thanks to Supt Lynsay Hernandez who has now moved to our Strategic Development Department. Ch/Insp Dave McIntosh now Dounreay Operational Unit Commander since 6th April.
- Continue to work with internal departments and Stakeholders to understand accommodation challenges for new recruits & longer-term impacts.

Dave McIntosh

Dounreay OUC.

VULCAN NAVAL REACTOR TEST ESTABLISHMENT

DNSR QUARTERLY REPORT

1 Jan 2026 to 31 Mar 2026

FOREWORD

1. This report is issued as part of the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator's (DNSR's) commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the Defence Nuclear Enterprise¹ available to the workforce and the public. The Secretary of State for Defence is answerable to Parliament for the safety of all defence activities; he has issued a Health, Safety and Environmental Protection Policy Statement requiring the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to comply with legislation, and where there are exemptions relating to defence activities, to make, so far as is practicable, arrangements at least as good as those required by legislation. DNSR is empowered to regulate nuclear and radiological safety in the Defence Nuclear Enterprise. This is achieved in a manner that complements and joins up with the work of statutory regulators².

2. Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE) is an Authorised Site under MoD regulation; Authorisation is a process akin to licensing under the Nuclear Installations Act. Statutory regulators have roles under general health, safety and environmental legislation, and DNSR Inspectors work closely with them; this report should be read in conjunction with theirs. The report is made available to members of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group. Where possible, a DNSR Inspector will attend Stakeholder Group meetings and will respond to any questions raised. Additionally, DNSR Inspectors may be contacted at their offices at Abbey Wood, Bristol.

PERIOD OF THIS REPORT

3. This report covers the quarterly reporting period from 1 Jan 2026 to 31 Mar 2026.

ROUTINE MATTERS

4. Routine visits to the Site are made for the purpose of undertaking pre-planned examinations of the adequacy of safety management, examinations of Authorisation Condition (AC) compliance or compliance with other regulations and attending formal meetings with Site management or their representatives.

5. DNSR conducted one Site visit to Vulcan NRTE. Regular MoD NET MS Teams remote meetings with the Naval Superintendent Vulcan (NSV) have been established and continue to take place:

- a. **17 Mar 26** – AC28 (Examination, Inspection, Maintenance and Testing) planned Inspection.
- b. **18 Mar 26** – Site Visit Level 3 Regulatory Interface For a (L3RIF) meeting

PERMISSION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

6. DNSR has not placed any regulatory enforcement action on NSV in this quarter.

NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

¹ Comprising the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Programme (NNPP) and the Nuclear Weapon Programme (NWP).

² The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), the Environment Agency (EA), and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

7. No non-routine matters were raised during this period.

J Byson

DNSR ICF-b

14 Apr 2026

Distribution: (Indicates* by e-mail)

Internal:

DNSR NPR*

DNSR ICF*

External:

Dounreay Stakeholder Group*

ONR (Vulcan Site Inspector) *

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE TO DOUNREAY SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP – 3RD JUNE 2026

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING POLICY TEAM

Scottish Election

This quarter's update is relatively light given the Scottish Parliament elections on 7th May.

<https://www.parliament.scot/msps/elections/election-2026>

In the last few days, John Swinney MSP has been formally appointed as the First Minister of Scotland and a new Scottish Cabinet has also been appointed. The Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning policy team will continue to fall under the remit of Ms Gillian Martin MSP, who is now Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs.

[Gillian Martin | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

NDA Seconded

Phil Carson joined the SG Team on 5 May on an 18 month secondment from Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS). Building on previous successful secondments from NDA group, Phil has joined to provide technical expertise across a range of SG workstreams. Phil has joined SG from NRS's Corporate Centre and has recent experience in working with both Hunterston sites.

Diane Hamilton
Scottish Government

ACTIONS ONGOING

Date of Meeting	Action	Information/progress	Status
22 April 26	DSG/SRSG(2026)M01/A01: Review status of Highland Council offsite emergency plan consequences report – not updated on website since 2022	The latest version of the REPPIR 2019 Consequences Report was submitted to the Highland Council on 28/11/2025. This submission was slightly later than the due date of September, but ONR and Highland Council were aware of and content with the delay following ongoing dialogue between the 3 parties during 2025	Closed
21 January 26	DSG/SESG(2026)M04/A01: Magnus to arrange a meeting with Alan Scott and reps from local businesses	Alan highlighted that local companies can't compete with Dounreay's terms and conditions. A meeting to take place with Alan and his representatives from the local business base – discussions have taken place – meeting being rescheduled to include all parties and MD	Ongoing
8 October 25	DSG/SRSG(2025)M03/A03: Following the RTC on 7 October - SM to bring together representatives from HC, NRS, Police Scotland, Buldoo, Vulcan and DSG to discuss road improvement options	Meeting held on 14 April – way forward agreed to carry out independent audit of junction, install cameras at junctions for Dounreay and Vulcan and driver behaviour training offered – HC led – NRS budget granted – TW leading actions and will share data and review outcomes in due course	Closed

ACTIONS COMPLETED

Date of Meeting	Action	Full close-out response	Status
25 November 25	DSG/BM(2025)M011/A002: Code of conduct and declaration of interests to be formally documented and endorsed in the DSG Terms of Reference	Following NDA SSG review recommendations – action agreed – SM has shared words with business group for comment and eventual ratification by DSG members – SM to provide final amendments	COMPLETE
16 July 25	DSG/SESG(2025)M02/A01: Magnus to draft Terms of Reference for the Dounreay Communities Fund and share with DSG	Drafted and under review – circulated and comments made – will be circulated with subgroup papers for ratification. Amendments/DA comments to be made following subgroup – followed up with MD on 17 Feb – issued to members 23 Feb	COMPLETE
25 November 25	DSG/BM(2025)M011/A001: SM to arrange for a Highland Council presentation on socio-economic funding at next socio-ec subgroup (January 2026)	New HC names to be provided - linked to Thurso Transformational Group activities – Finlay Macdonald attended socio- economic subgroup on 21 January 2026 and gave a presentation on HC and hub proposals	COMPLETE
25 November 25	DSG/BM(2025)M011/A003: DSG and Sellafield SSGs to collaborate more closely	Agreed that this would be beneficial for both groups working with category 1 nuclear sites – joint meetings to be arranged – SM has shared a draft letter for comment – awaiting confirmation to issue – letter sent on 19 February	COMPLETE
14 April 25	DSG/BM(2025)M04/A001: NDA to provide a full breakdown of the total NDA socio-economic funding by travel	Email issued from Jez – more information needed – Davie spoke to Magnus – further meetings have been held over past couple of months – meeting arranged with DSG business meeting/NRS socio-ec team on 9 September:	COMPLETE

	to work area for every site – and review of shared community space	• A benchmarking visit suggested with a similar organisation such as M-SParc in Wales – DSG to discuss and put forward names to DC – visit arranged w/c 17 November – Stuart Gibb to be invited to future BM to provide an update • Thurso Transformational Group also doing this work – need to join up – PF and SM sit on this group – to be reported back to future business meetings	
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8 October 25	DSG/SRSG(2025)M03/A01: What is the reason for no bids on the DCP store extension - TW	Response: We checked with the local supply chain for capability and interest in the work – there were no expressions of interest as they didn't have the resource, SC security clearance or didn't want the work	COMPLETE
23-Apr-25	DSG(2025)M01/A01: Clarification on jobs for the decommissioning operative contract - this was discussed and explained at length by Frederic Stalin at the subsequent SRSG meeting in the evening and the response will be shared with all members.	Minutes to be issued – with full details of responses given	COMPLETE
23-Apr-25	DSG(2025)M01/A02: TW to add action to discuss meeting with Lawrie Haynes and Rob Fletcher at next business meeting.	Davie to discuss at meeting with LH and RF	COMPLETE

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	page to better explain the DCF criteria and match funding guidelines - DC		
8 October 25	DSG/SRSG(2025)M03/A01: What is the reason for no bids on the DCP store extension - TW	Response: We checked with the local supply chain for capability and interest in the work – there were no expressions of interest as they didn't have the resource, SC security clearance or didn't want the work	COMPLETE
23-Apr-25	DSG(2025)M01/A01: Clarification on jobs for the decommissioning operative contract - this was discussed and explained at length by Frederic Stalin at the subsequent SRSG meeting in the evening and the response will be shared with all members.	Minutes to be issued – with full details of responses given	COMPLETE
23-Apr-25	DSG(2025)M01/A02: TW to add action to discuss meeting with Lawrie Haynes and Rob Fletcher at next business meeting.	Davie to discuss at meeting with LH and RF	COMPLETE