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DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

19 February 2026

Dear David

Strengthening Co-operation: DSG and WCSSG

On behalf of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group (DSG) I am writing to propose a closer and more structured relationship between our two stakeholder bodies, reflecting the many important links between our respective communities and the nuclear sites that we host.

Dounreay and Sellafield occupy a unique position within the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's civil nuclear estate. They are the only two category one nuclear sites in the UK, carrying the highest level of hazard and therefore the greatest responsibilities for safety, security and environmental protection. Both sites share a common mission: to safely manage some of the UK's most complex nuclear legacy facilities, deal with historic wastes, and deliver long-term decommissioning programmes that will span many decades.

Both Caithness and West Cumbria have been shaped by the nuclear developments that brought skilled employment, technical expertise and significant investment, but also left a legacy that must now be managed carefully and transparently. In both areas, our nuclear sites remain central to the local economy, public confidence and future prospects, making effective stakeholder engagement essential.

Because of these shared challenges, there is a strong case for deeper collaboration between the DSG and the WCSSG. Many of the issues we consider from long-term waste management, radioactive material transport, environmental monitoring, regulatory oversight, workforce transition and community resilience arise directly from the programmes set by the NDA and delivered on the ground at both sites. By sharing experience, lessons learned, and good practice, we can strengthen our ability to provide informed challenge and constructive support to the NDA, site operators, regulators and government.

We therefore propose that our two groups explore practical ways to work more closely together. This might include periodic joint meetings or workshops, exchanges between members or chairs, sharing of papers and briefings, and

collaboration on matters of national policy that affect Category One NDA sites. A more coordinated approach would not only benefit our respective groups but would also provide a stronger and more coherent stakeholder voice at the national level.

The DSG believes that closer cooperation between our two stakeholder groups would be a positive step for both our communities and for the safe and responsible delivery of the NDA's mission at the UK's most complex nuclear sites.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with you and to explore how we might take this forward in a practical and proportionate way.

Yours sincerely

Signed electronically

Provost Struan Mackie
Chair of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group