



29th January 2018
Ref: DSG(2018)C004

Ms Lorna Jack
Highlands and Islands Airport Ltd
Head Office
Inverness Airport
Inverness
IV2 7JB

Please respond to:

June Love
DSG Secretariat
Dounreay.com
Traill House
7 Orlig Street
Thurso, Caithness, KW14 7BJ

Tel: 01847 890886
Fax: 01847 893459
Email: info@dounreaystakeholdergroup.org

Dear Ms Jack

The Dounreay Stakeholder Group (DSG) is represented by over 20 organisations and part of its remit is to oversee and scrutinise the work of the operational aspects of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and Dounreay site.

As part of that remit the group considers the socio economic impact of the rundown of the Dounreay site and the broader Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership's (CNSRP) activities which is looking at attract new business to the area.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank HIAL for the informative briefing provided to Caithness Transport Forum/CNSRP last year of which DSG was part of.

As members of the Caithness Transport Forum, DSG takes a keen interest in the transport connectivity for the area and we noted with some concern the recent announcement that HIAL will be centralising its ATM services for seven of its airports, which would include Wick John O'Groats airport.

Before HIAL makes any such decisions, we would like to support the consideration made by other organisations within our community, that you consider basing any central ATM facility at Wick John O'Groats airport.

We, like others, believe that Wick is ideally placed to serve your requirements for a centralised ATM facility. It provides good transport connections to Inverness and beyond, and has seen significant investment by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and Dounreay site and is ideally placed to service upcoming opportunities in renewables, oil & gas and other potential new industries.

By considering the use of the Wick JOG airport to service the centralised ATM HIAL could make use of a labour market which we believe would provide benefit to HIAL. These benefits include, but are not exhaustive to, low staff churn and a lower cost of living compared with other mainland locations.

Wick JOG airport is also ideally placed to service the other airports which will fall under this centralisation. At a time when everything appears to be moving to more and more centralisation we would urge you to consider this in light of public perception being taken out of the rural communities where they are most needed. Your strategic plan highlights the fact that HIAL is aware of the socio economic value for the communities where you are based and indeed notes that your "air links provide access to education, employment, skills and resources which contribute to the socio economic viability of more remote communities".

Like many others before us, the DSG hopes that you will give serious consideration to Wick JOG Airport as a base for a centralised ATM facility.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger Saxon".

Roger Saxon
Dounreay Stakeholder Group
Chairman

cc. David Swanson, Caithness Transport Forum
Eann Sinclair, Programme Manager, CNSRP
Gail Ross, MSP
Alex McManus, Highland Council (for distribution to Caithness Councillors)