



Department for  
Science, Innovation  
& Technology

Councillor Richard Rout  
Cabinet Member for Devolution, Local Government  
Reform, Environment and Nationally Significant  
Infrastructure Projects  
Suffolk County Council

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Department for  
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Lord Vallance  
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15 April 2026

Our Ref: MCB2026/04575

Dear Councillor Rout,

Thank you for your letter of 24 March on behalf of the New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG) regarding the Government's implementation of recommendation 30 of the Nuclear Regulatory Review 2025 and the establishment of a new unit to discharge post-consent requirements contained in Development Consent Orders (DCOs) granted by this department.

The Nuclear Regulatory Review made this proposal in respect of civil and defence nuclear. In response to the Review, Government accepted the recommendation and confirmed that a new Unit would be established in DESNZ's existing energy planning team. In terms of scope, the new Unit will manage the discharge of post-consent requirements within DCO's for nuclear power projects and also for electricity networks projects (overhead power lines). This department does not deal with defence matters and they are not covered by the Planning Act so that aspect is being picked up separately elsewhere.

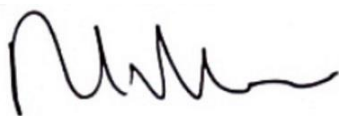
The project to establish the new Unit has already commenced and we are aiming to have it functioning as soon as possible. We do not believe that any new legislation is required which should help with timelines. Whilst I cannot be more specific at this stage, we are currently working through the details within our existing planning delivery service (which does already do a limited number of post-consent discharges) and speaking to colleagues at the Department for Transport about their comparable unit.

My officials will provide updates to the NNLAG as this work progresses. In the meantime, they are keen to explore some of the practical issues with local planning authorities and those who work with them. I am grateful for the NNLAG's support as we implement these reforms, and if a meeting would be helpful once we have progressed the projects implementation, my officials would be happy to have a meeting with you.

Once the Unit is up and running, the Government will evaluate in the future whether it should be extended to other projects, and if this could include the geological disposal facility.

Thank you for taking the time to write, I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Vallance', written in a cursive style.

**LORD VALLANCE**

Minister of State for Science, Research, Innovation and Nuclear