

8th January 2013

Baroness Verma of Leicester
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
DECC
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

Dear Baroness Verma

It is widely known that the storage of nuclear waste is a major challenge and a problem which needs to be addressed. Cumbria Tourism has engaged fully in the MRWS consultation exercise and continues to take a neutral stance on whether a nuclear waste repository should be based in Cumbria. It has taken this position because there is inconclusive evidence that such a repository would have a detrimental impact on the economy and the environment. A range of research and monitoring processes are now in place or are planned in future to determine the extent of such impacts.

The Executive Board of Cumbria Tourism wishes to make clear that taking a neutral stance does not imply tacit support for a nuclear waste repository. The Board has always strongly objected to any major developments that would have an adverse impact on the enjoyment of visitors, tourism business viability and on the special qualities of the National Park or other protected environmental areas. The Board understands that, despite rumours to the contrary, there are no site specific proposals at this stage and that there are no plans at present to site a nuclear waste repository in the Lake District National Park or within the Solway AONB. The Board is also mindful that if there is a decision to proceed to the next 'desktop' phase of research, this will not result in any 'new infrastructure, traffic or noise' which could cause disruption to visitors or businesses.

However, it is inevitable that Cumbria Tourism would object strongly should further research lead to any suggestion that a nuclear waste repository could be considered in either the National Park or the AONB.

Yours sincerely



Eric Robson
Cumbria Tourism Chairman

cc: Bill Jefferson, Chairman of the Lake District National Park Authority
Rory Stewart MP for Penrith & the Borders
John Stevenson MP for Carlisle
Tim Farron MP for Westmorland & Lonsdale
Jamie Reed MP for Copeland
Tony Cunningham MP for Workington
John Woodcock MP for Barrow & Furness