



Department for
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Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown
Public Accounts Committee Chair
House of Commons
Palace of Westminster
Westminster
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12 December 2025

Dear Sir Geoffrey,

Thank you for your letter dated 14 November 2025, addressed to David Peattie, Euan Hutton, and me, requesting further information concerning Recommendation 4 on asset condition and maintenance, as well as to reaffirm our commitment and provide clarity regarding the current phase of the GDF programme. Please note that a corresponding letter from the NDA group has been submitted concurrently; these two communications are intended to be considered together.

In your letter you reference the work on medium term targets and the significant impact they could have for monitoring progress. The department agrees with your assessment and is working alongside UK Government Investments to maximise the benefit this work will bring as well as to monitor progress.

As your Committee knows, Sellafield is a historically significant and complex site that faces numerous ongoing challenges, including the effects of time and the deterioration of facilities and assets that have been operational for over 70 years. The department remains committed to high hazard risk reduction as a central priority, while also ensuring the safety and security of the site. The Spending Review confirmed a £13.9bn capital budget for the NDA, the largest in its 20-year history, enabling it to maintain safety and security at former nuclear sites while progressing decommissioning and waste management across its sites through the operating companies, including Sellafield Ltd. This funding will be strategically directed towards initiatives that deliver mission progress and value for money, particularly by addressing major hazards such as the Magnox Swarf Storage Silo.

Government policy is to develop a geological disposal facility (GDF) for the UK's most hazardous radioactive waste and continues to work closely with the NDA to deliver a viable solution. A decision is expected to come into the department next year on whether to take a community or communities through to the next phase of the programme, deep borehole investigations.

I trust that this gives you and the committee the reassurance you seek on these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Clive Maxwell