

The Rt Hon Chris Huhne MP

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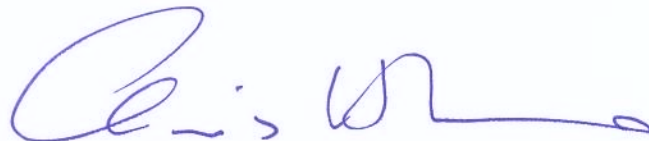
Dr M W Weightman,

JAPANESE EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UK NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

Following the unprecedented events in Japan during the last few days I am writing to formally ask you to provide a report to Government on the implications of the situation and lessons to be learned for the UK nuclear industry. I would ask that your report is prepared in close cooperation with the International nuclear community and other nuclear safety regulators.

I take the events in Japan extremely seriously and even though there is no reason to expect a similar earthquake and associated tsunami in the UK it is essential that we understand the full facts and the implications, both for existing nuclear installations and any new reactor programme, as safety is always my number one priority. I appreciate that there is still uncertainty as to how the situation for some of the nuclear power plants in Japan will unfold but would request that you provide me with an interim report by mid May 2011 and to aim to provide me a final report within 6 months of this request. The exact scope of the report is for you to determine in your capacity of Chief Nuclear Inspector but it is important your work can be shared widely and as such I want the interim and final reports to be published in the public domain. I am very grateful for your willingness to take this important work on.

Yours sincerely,



CHRIS HUHNE