

## **John Thurso MP**

Originally a hereditary peer (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Viscount Thurso), John Thurso gave up his seat in the Lords following the 1999 Act. He then went on to become elected in 2001 as Liberal Democrat MP for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross. He was the Lib Dem spokesman on Scotland and shadow secretary of state for Transport until very recently but lost his position after Menzies Campbell's ascent to leader and subsequent reshuffle. He was a member of the culture, media and sport committee from 2001 – 2005.

His career before parliament was in the tourism/leisure industry, working with companies such as Cliveden House and Champneys, he is still Deputy Chairman, Millennium and Copthorn's Hotels plc.

The former nuclear power station Dounreay falls within John Thurso's constituency. He recently made a submission to the Highland Council in response to its Renewable Energy Draft Strategy, which he welcomed. In it he urged the Council to consider supporting alternative energy research at Dounreay, and to exercise caution over decisions about on-shore wind farms.

Last year John Thurso said in an interview with the Sunday Herald that new reactors could be the "the least worst option" for maintaining security of supply and reducing carbon emissions – which is against party policy. He also expressed his confidence that a solution to nuclear waste would be found.

His interests include tourism, game conservance, rural issues and House of Lords reform (he is in favour of an elected House of Lords).