



**Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy**

The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP
Secretary of State
Department for Business,
Energy & Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Darren Jones MP
Chair, Business, Energy and
Industrial Strategy Committee
House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E enquiries@beis.gov.uk
W www.gov.uk

1 October 2020

Dear Darren,

Thank you for your letter of 25 September 2020. I am writing to provide reassurance around the government's plans for space solutions for Position, Navigation and Timing (PNT) resilience.

The UK GNSS programme was undertaking an Engineering, Design and Development Phase (EDDP). This work has now come to its natural end and we are looking to build on what we have learned. The UK GNSS programme is not being closed; rather, due to the importance of this issue and the government's ambitions for the space sector, the programme is being reset and its remit widened. This will ensure the right capability is secured for the UK through the new Space-Based PNT Programme.

The announcement on 24 September set out our plans for further work on potential options for delivering national PNT capabilities. This programme will draw and build on the conclusions of the EDDP and we continue to drive this work forward at pace. The remit of the UK GNSS programme was to develop a baseline plan for a conventional satellite system, similar to GPS and Galileo, however, as research has progressed, new technologies and methods have become available and our understanding of PNT requirements has matured. Therefore, it is right that we also investigate wider options for delivery of secure, assured PNT from space.

It is important to note that the UK currently has no reliance on the EU's Galileo signal (PRS) as this is not yet fully operational. We will continue to use GPS for sensitive applications as we have done successfully for many years, whilst also increasing our sovereign capabilities.

Yours sincerely,

THE RT HON ALOK SHARMA MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy