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Dear Iain Stewart

Space Regulatory Review 2024

I am writing to you in your capacity as chair of the Transport Committee, to update you that the Government will shortly publish The Space Regulatory Review 2024 Report. I have enclosed a copy as courtesy in advance of publication.

As you may know, the UK has one of the most advanced space regulatory regimes in the world. We are the first country to have enacted legislation to license commercial spaceports and launch activity in Europe. However, in a sector where technology will continue to advance rapidly, the Government needs to go further to seize the opportunities that a pro-innovation regulatory regime can enable.

In June 2023, the National Space Council agreed and endorsed the approach for a Space Regulatory Review to ensure that the UK remains at the forefront of modern regulations. Aligned with the goals of the National Space Strategy [and Innovation Strategy], the Review aims to drive growth, innovation and sustainability. It explores ambitious, novel and emerging areas where action is needed to maintain an agile, attractive, innovative regulatory environment for the UK space sector. To make sure that the UK competes as one of the best places on earth to start, scale and run a space business.

The review has been a joint effort between the space, defence, finance and insurance sectors, government, and regulators. This partnership has a single unifying message to provide the clarity and certainty necessary to boost confidence in the UK sector, its investors, and the global space community. Confidence in our future regulatory regime will help unlock the growth, innovation and sustainability to realise UK ambitions in space.

The report identifies seven priority outcomes and seventeen recommendations that can deliver the greatest impact for our space sector and the UK economy. This action would ensure the UK leads the international community in safe, secure and sustainable space operations, supported by first class finance and insurance services. As the space economy evolves, greater transparency and coherence across policy and regulatory bodies will be vital, integrated with access to finance and insurance products to enable innovative and sustainable approaches to nascent markets.

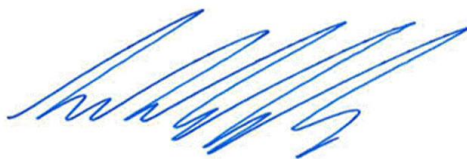
The report is a call to action not just to regulators, but to commercial and other stakeholders to play their part to achieve shared the seven priority outcomes:

1. **Agility**- A streamlined, proportionate and responsive space regulatory environment that ensures greater coordination across regulators and government departments.
2. **Innovation**- A dynamic, responsive regulatory development framework that supports novel and emerging missions and technologies to enable early leadership in nascent markets.
3. **Growth**- A progressive regulatory framework that encourages healthy competition, risk taking investment, unlocks market access, and promotes good practice, while driving out irresponsible behaviours.
4. **International Partnership**- partnerships with other established and emerging spacefaring nations, working towards aligned regulatory frameworks and international best practice that prioritise sustainability and smooth cross-border trade.
5. **Safety & Sustainability**- A world-leading approach to incentivising sustainable space activities, protecting the space environment, its celestial bodies, and our freedom to act in a safe, secure and sustainable way.
6. **Accessibility**- A coherent, easy to understand suite of primary and secondary space legislations and clear published guidance that all types of organisations can easily interpret and operate under.
7. **National Interest**- Civil and commercial space regulatory frameworks that support UK national security.

The Government will continue to work in partnership with the space, defence, finance and insurance sectors and regulators to develop a robust implementation plan to deliver the recommendations and realise the priority outcomes. This is a shared endeavour to ensure UK space continues to flourish with ambition and pace in a fast-changing world.

I look forward to engaging with you and the Committee further in the weeks and months ahead. I will also place a copy of the letter and the document in the libraries of both Houses.

Kind regards



Andrew Griffith MP

Minister of State in the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology