

Patricia Ferguson MP
Scottish Affairs Committee
House of Commons
Palace of Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

15th December 2025

Dear Patricia,

Thank you for your letter. I greatly appreciate your continued interest in SaxaVord and the opportunity to reply to the Government's response to the Committee's Report.

Regarding the cross-Government space publication, we have not been consulted. We are of course in regular dialogue with both DSIT and UKSA and hosted the Space Minister Liz Lloyd to Shetland last month. I would hope that our views are well known but would, nevertheless, be keen to take every opportunity to help shape the publication both directly with its authors and via yourselves.

Turning to the response to your Report, can I make the following observations:

Recommendation 1

Government support to the launch sector is of course welcome. I note the comments about funding, but it should be noted that, by comparison with other launch nations, the UK Government invests less.

Now that SaxaVord is ready for launch, the challenge, and the opportunity, is to accelerate the completion of the other pads and supporting infrastructure to secure our position as Europe's leading launch nations.

Giving government funding to the launch companies is welcome. But that, in and of itself, does not mean they have to launch from UK soil (unless such a rider was inserted into any funding deal)

Instead, we need to ensure that SaxaVord is capable of securing their launches by being ready, since once a launcher has committed to a site, their future business is all but assured. Hence the need to accelerate our next phases. In that regard, the Government can assist.

Recommendation 2

The key word in their response is “currently”. I do believe that creating a Freeport Spaceport has merit and would enhance the Government’s own ambitions to attract to our shores significant space industries and inward investment.

Recommendation 3

See 1 above

Recommendations 4 and 5

The importance of responsive and sovereign space capabilities has never been more apparent. We stand ready to engage with the MoD, and with our strong ties to our German clients, not least RFA, we are the obvious choice for the UK and NATO to ensure a sovereign UK and European responsive space launch facility.

Recommendations 6, 7, and 8

Comments as above, and we await details on how the UK launch sector will benefit from the European funding to which the UK has contributed.

Recommendations 9, 10

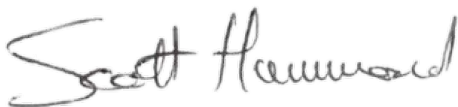
As above, and indeed the Freeport Spaceport concept could be an accelerator for such initiatives.

Recommendations 11, 12

We note their comments regarding a Space Minister and Government structures. We look forward to seeing how the absorbing of UKSA into DSIT will work in the New Year, but would still argue that a dedicated cabinet level Minister for Space would assist, failing which a No10 Space Tsar appointed as a focal point for cross government liaison and focus.

I trust that this is of use to you and the Committee.

With best wishes.



Scott Hammond
CEO
SaxaVord Spaceport



**Scottish Affairs
Committee**

**Scott Hammond
Chief Executive Officer
SaxaVord Spaceport**

Scotland's space sector: launch

2 December 2025

Dear Scott,

I'm getting in touch to make you aware that the Scottish Affairs Committee has published the UK Government's response to the Committee's report into Scotland's space sector and launch capabilities – which, as you will recall, drew on the evidence that you gave to the Committee back in February.

The Government's response can be accessed at the following link:
<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/50469/documents/273240/default/>

I would be interested to hear any reflections you might have on the UK Government's response. In particular, you will note that the response states that: "Following the recent Spending Review, the Government intends to set out our strategic approach to supporting the Scottish launch sector in a new cross-Government space publication, scheduled for 2026". I would be grateful to know whether you and your colleagues at SaxaVord have been consulted by UK Ministers and/or officials as part of this publication's development.

In addition, the Committee understands – based on recent media reports – that the first attempt at a rocket launch from the SaxaVord site will now no longer take place this year, as had previously been hoped. We would be grateful if you could please set out your latest understanding of when a first launch attempt will be made.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Ferguson MP
Chair, Scottish Affairs Committee