



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

George Freeman MP
Minister for Science, Research &
Innovation
Department for Business,
Energy & Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Darren Jones MP
Chair of the 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

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Dear Darren,

Thank you for your letter dated 1 March 2022 regarding OneWeb's plans to launch 36 satellites from the Baikonur Cosmodrome Kazakhstan on 4 March.

As you may be aware, the OneWeb Board has voted to suspend all launches from Baikonur. This includes the launch that was scheduled for 4 March, which had already been paid for by the company. OneWeb does not have a contract to pay any Russian entities but has a contract with Arianespace to provide launch services, and discussions on alternative launch providers and the roll out of OneWeb satellites are a matter for OneWeb. These discussions are likely to take time given the fast-changing situation and complexity of launch planning. We have offered OneWeb support in its thinking on alternative launch providers recognising this is commercially sensitive.

Despite the Russian Space Agency's threats, we will not be selling our share in OneWeb and support the company's decision in light of Russia's illegal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. As the Business Secretary confirmed on 3 March, we are reviewing our participation in all further projects involving Russian collaboration extremely carefully in light of the current situation. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and engage with the OneWeb Board through our non-executive directors.

Thank you for writing. Please be assured that I take this issue extremely seriously.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE FREEMAN MP

Minister for Science, Research and Innovation