



## Department for Transport

Norman Lamb MP  
Chair, Science & Technology Committee  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

**Rt. Hon John Hayes CBE MP**  
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Dear Norman

Congratulations on your appointment as Chair of the Science & Technology Committee. The work of the Committee is vital in ensuring British innovation - including in the space and aviation sectors – makes the maximum possible contribution to both economic growth and the wider public good. I look forward to continuing the collaborative, productive relationship I had with your predecessor.

You will be aware that in the previous Parliament, the Committee held an inquiry into what was then the draft Spaceflight Bill. I am delighted to say that this is now the Space Industry Bill which was introduced in the Lords on 27 June and had its Second Reading on 12 July. The scrutiny of the Committee was invaluable in strengthening the Bill prior to introduction and you will be aware the Government published its formal response on 22 June:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-spaceflight-bill-government-response-to-science-and-technology-committee-report>

I appreciate that this response could have addressed one of the Committee's recommendations (noted below) more comprehensively, and I wanted to write expeditiously to reassure you of the work currently being undertaken on this issue.

*There is a risk that the United States' International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) may inhibit the full development of the UK's commercial spaceflight ambitions and curtail some of its economic benefits. In its response to this report, we ask the next Government to set out how it will address any barriers presented by ITAR, when it expects the matter to be resolved, and what contingency plans it will put in place if an agreement cannot be reached.*

I can assure you we are working internationally to achieve the technical, trade and policy agreements necessary for UK-based launch services. This includes with the US, with which a bilateral agreement will likely be required to facilitate the export of space launch technology to the UK. If you would like to discuss the issue in detail, I would be happy to offer a meeting with my officials.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Hayes', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**THE RT. HON. JOHN HAYES CBE MP**