

LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUPPLIED

Document 1 – Ministerial Letter to Amanda Solloway

Document 2 – Ministerial Letter to Chancellor

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Amanda Solloway MP
Minister for Science, Research and Innovation
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

07 December 2020

Dear Amanda,

Thank you for taking the time last Wednesday (2nd December) to discuss how we can work together to advance collaboratively the agenda for space launch activity within Scotland and the wider UK, and I look forward to continuing our engagement on a regular basis going forward.

We both recognise the challenges associated with delivering launch capability and I appreciate your commitment to work in partnership to address these. **[Redacted]**

The Prime Minister committed to launch a UK rocket into space from Scotland by 2022 with the new Space Command playing a key role in this activity. I welcome this plan which aligns well with our shared ambition to capture 10 per cent of the global space market by 2030 and to be Europe's leading space nation by providing an end-to-end solution for small satellites.

Whilst the Prime Minister's Scottish launch target for 2022 is clearly ambitious, the Scottish Government believes it is achievable with the collective efforts of our two governments, continuing industry support, a supportive regulatory environment and construction of the necessary infrastructure. And indeed, my colleague Fiona Hyslop has written to the Chancellor in his role as chair of the National Space Council.

As we discussed Space Hub Sutherland is the only spaceport in the UK to have achieved planning consent giving it a realistic chance of becoming Europe's first launch site. Their partnership with the vehicle manufacturer Orbex is of major importance to launch ambitions and wider economic benefits as it offers the prospects of full manufacturing capability here in Scotland and the UK. Like us, Orbex share our vision for an environmentally considerate space sector that can be a force for good in the global fight against climate change.

[Redacted]

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IVAN MCKEE

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The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
H M Treasury

By email: action.chancellors@hmtreasury.gov.uk
Cc: defencesecretary-group@mod.gov.uk

08 December 2020

Dear Rishi

As Chancellor of the Exchequer and chair of the National Space Council I hope you can help to illuminate with further detail the Prime Minister's recent announcement (19 November) on space launch from Scotland.

The Prime Minister committed to launch a UK rocket into space from Scotland by 2022 with the new Space Command playing a key role in this activity. I welcome this plan which aligns well with our shared ambition to capture 10 per cent of the global space market by 2030 and to be Europe's leading space nation by providing an end-to-end solution for small satellites.

Whilst the Prime Minister's Scottish launch target for 2022 is clearly ambitious I believe it is achievable with the collective efforts of our two governments, continuing industry support, a supportive regulatory environment and construction of the necessary infrastructure.

Our close cooperation is essential therefore to ensure that all of the constituent elements needed for a successful launch in 2022 are in place. Scotland, as you know, is already home to five of the seven planned spaceports across Britain and Space Hub Sutherland is the only UK spaceport to have achieved full planning consent. In addition to physical infrastructure, the sector also requires a robust and commercially enabling licensing and regulatory framework – one that takes account of existing environmental provisions, indigenous launch vehicle development, small satellite payloads, commercially accessible and viable range provision, financially viable insurance and enabling spaceport infrastructure.

There is no doubt that space offers a tremendous economic opportunity for Scotland and the whole of the UK. We are well positioned presently to capitalise on rising global demand but competition from other European nations is fierce and any unnecessary delays amplify the risks that first-mover opportunities will pass us by.

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My colleague Ivan McKee, the Minister for Trade Investment and Innovation, has established ongoing discussions with his counterpart Amanda Solloway regarding Space Hub Sutherland.

However, to ensure coverage of the wider strategic picture and minimise those risks to our sector presented by overseas competitors, I would welcome detailed dialogue between Space Command, UK Space Agency and the launch community in Scotland about launch schedule, rocket types, tracking and range, security requirements etc as soon as possible. I would also appreciate from you a better understanding of the interaction between Space Command, the National Space Council and the UK Space Agency.

As Scotland is critical to the realisation of UK space ambitions I think it would be beneficial for all parties if the Scottish Government had greater levels of engagement with the National Space Council. Finally, as the only one of the vertical launch spaceports to have achieved planning, as well as the only one in receipt of substantial funding from the public purse, I feel Space Hub Sutherland is the best placed of the ports to achieve first launch and I would welcome your support in removing any potential blockages that could inhibit delivery. This would help us actively to shape and pursue the development of a cohesive strategy to support the achievement of our shared and ambitious goals for the space sector in Scotland.

I would welcome your views on ways for our Governments to work together on this agenda.

Kind regards
Fiona Hyslop

FIONA HYSLOP

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