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Dear Richard,

I am writing to clarify my comments in Lords Committee of the Space Industry Bill on 23 October 2017.

It is true that the affirmative procedure does not allow for the amendment of a statutory instrument once it is laid. There is no Parliamentary procedure which allows for this.

However, we can amend draft secondary legislation in response to ongoing engagement, feedback elicited by calls for evidence and the consultation on the draft SI itself prior to the laying of the instrument. As I committed in the House, I will write to peers when we publish the draft SIs for consultation to inform them of their opportunity to contribute to this process.

And once regulations are in force, we will keep them under review to ensure they continue to be effective and meet the needs of local communities and industry. We can amend regulations, if necessary and appropriate, by way of amending regulations using the Parliamentary procedure laid down in the Bill for the provision in question. The Air Navigation Order, for example, is regularly amended to update it and we would take a similar approach to regulations under the Bill. Again, where a substantive change is proposed, we will consult on this.

This will allow Parliament, the public and all space sector stakeholders to shape spaceflight legislation now and in the future. By combining established Parliamentary procedure with the principles of open policy making, we can create a regulatory framework for this new and exciting activity that works for everyone.

I look forward to continuing to work with you over the coming years to achieve our shared ambition of safe spaceflight from the UK which brings economic and social benefits to the whole country.

I am copying this letter to other peers who spoke during Lords Committee and I will place a copy in the library of both Houses.

LORD CALLANAN