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Dear Kulveer,

Thank you for your contributions during my oral question on progress towards battery and hydrogen-powered aircraft connecting different parts of the United Kingdom on Thursday 30 November 2023. I wanted to follow up on the question you raised in relation to the Government's plans for developing and adopting new passenger-carrying aircraft and supporting infrastructure.

This Government's strategic vision is to maximise the benefits of emerging aviation technologies including electric Vertical Take-off and Landing aircraft (eVTOLs). These new transport technologies must benefit society, industry, and the environment whilst remaining safe and secure.

In Flightpath to the Future (published in May 2022) the Government's Ten Point Plan for the Aviation sector included a pledge to capture the potential of new technologies, part of which was a commitment to publish a Future of Flight Action Plan that will set out the strategic direction for the future aviation industry. This Plan is being developed through the Future of Flight Industry Group (FFIG), a Government-industry partnership group.

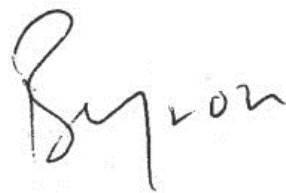
The Action Plan, amongst other important enablers, will set out the necessary regulatory framework for future aviation innovation to thrive and how to deliver it. The fourth FFIG meeting took place on 5 December and the Plan will be published soon. A dedicated webpage can be found at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/future-of-flight-industry-group>.

As you mentioned, suitable infrastructure is required to enable this emerging system of transport known as Advanced Air Mobility (AAM). New infrastructure – comprising sites commonly referred to as 'Vertiports' – is being developed by a series of organisations in the UK and around the world, including Skyports: a UK-based, world-leading developer of AAM

infrastructure whose CEO co-chairs the FFIG alongside my colleague, the Minister for Aviation. Joint-funded by Government and Industry through UKRI's Future Flight Challenge, Skyports is developing the UK's first operational vertiport to facilitate mission demonstrations in 2024, which will show the viability of the AAM ecosystem. The Future of Flight Action Plan will also set a vision for planning, building and operating an ambitious network of AAM infrastructure to support the wider ambition to deliver routing Future of Flight use at pace. We are engaging with communities, through both the FFIG (which includes the Local Government Association) and a Future Flight Community Integration Working Group, to ensure this is delivered in an appropriate and consultative way.

I hope this makes clear that the Government is proactively exploring and working to bring about the potential of AAM. In case of further interest, the Government has recently published the AAM evidence review, research into the future AAM industry and market in the UK and abroad:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advanced-air-mobility-evidence-review>.

A copy of this letter will be deposited in the libraries of the House of Lords and House of Commons.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Davies', with a stylized flourish at the end.

LORD DAVIES OF GOWER