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Professor Christopher Hodges OBE Chair, Regulatory Horizons Council <u>RegulatoryHorizonsCouncil@dsit.gov.uk</u>

Dear Chris,

As the Minister for Science, Research and Innovation, I am writing to welcome the Regulatory Horizons Council's report on the future regulation of space technologies.

Space technologies play a pivotal role in our lives, from weather forecasting and navigation to scientific exploration and communication. In the coming decades, the application of emerging technologies in space will lead to novel space capabilities such as solar energy generation, mining, and manufacturing, and more, and will further transform society. As the importance of space exploration continues to grow, so must our aspirations for the UK to be a global leader in space.

As outlined in the *National Space Strategy*, the Government is steadfast in its commitment to making the UK a global leader in space and ensuring the UK is one of the most innovative and compelling space economies. Crucial to this is regulatory policies that promotes fair competition and addresses some of the wild west aspects of modern space activities. I welcome the Council's report for directly tackling this significant challenge.

In reviewing the Council's report, I am in agreement with the scale of ambition outlined within it. Firstly, the aspiration to position the UK as a leading global hub for space law and insurance. Secondly, the dedication to preserving the space environment and ensuring equitable utilisation of space resources. I commend the aim to achieve these ambitions through developing a sensible, proportionate, and flexible regulatory regime which supports innovation, and the use of new mechanisms for public engagement and collective investment in space technologies to expand shared global benefits.

In line with the RHC Charter and Professor Dame Angela McLean's cross-cutting review on pro-innovation regulation recommendation, I am committed to ensuring that the Space Directorate in DSIT publish a government response to this report within the next 3-6 months.

Thank you and your colleagues for your work on this report. Together, we're not just shaping the future of space technology but also bolstering the UK's position as a global leader in space.

Kind regards,

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Andrew Griffith MP Minister for Science, Research and Innovation