

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

5 September 2017
Reference: F0003343

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing in respect of your recent request of 7 August 2017, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Your request:

'This is a revised request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 regarding proposals to build a space port at Prestwick airport in Ayrshire, Scotland, and the UK government's decision to support a spaceport in the UK and commercial spaceflight from the UK.'

This edited and shorter request follows on from a similar but more extensive request made on 6 July 2017 to which you responded on 7 August 2017, your reference F0003274, with the suggestion that I resubmit it by narrowing it down.

1) Please release all recorded information held by your organisation dating from 1 January 2015 concerning the Prestwick spaceport proposal and the broader policy of supporting commercial spaceflight within the UK which name or are in connection with:

- a) Donald Trump Snr, Donald Trump Jnr, Eric Trump, Ivanka Trump or Jared Kushner*
- b) George Sorial of the Trump Organization in New York, USA.*
- c) Stephen Walker of Trump Turnberry in Ayrshire, Scotland, or any other employee or representative of Trump Turnberry.'*

Our response:

Having considered your request in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), we are able to provide the information below.

Please find attached the information you have requested falling in scope of your request. The attachments include:

- A draft response to the CAA from The Department for Transport (DfT) in response to a FOI request made in 2015.

Civil Aviation Authority

Aviation House Gatwick Airport South Gatwick RH6 0YR. www.caa.co.uk

Telephone: 01293 768512. foi.requests@caa.co.uk

- Feedback given by CAA Chair Dame Deirdre Hutton to CAA colleagues following a visit to Glasgow Prestwick Airport.

You will find that some information has been redacted, it is the CAA's view that the information should not be released for the reasons set out below.

Section 43 – Commercial Interest

We are not obliged to provide some information contained within Dame Deirdre Hutton's feedback on the basis that it contains commercially sensitive information. Under Section 43(2) of the FOIA, we are not obliged to comply with a request where disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interest of any person. (A person may be an individual, company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity). We have sought the views of Glasgow Prestwick Airport in relation to the specific information and they have made representations that the information would prejudice their commercial interests if disclosed.

As part of its industrial strategy, the UK Government wishes to create a regulatory framework for spaceflight to take place from the UK. We published a report in 2014 on the key principles of such a framework and we have been working closely with the DfT and the UK Space Agency to provide the necessary technical, policy and legal input to develop the enabling primary legislation. This extensive programme of work led to the Government's publication of the draft Spaceflight Bill in February 2017. During this process, several organisations have expressed an interest in carrying out sub-orbital space flights from the UK. The information contained within the feedback relates to Glasgow Prestwick Airport's spaceport proposal and financial plans which, if disclosed, would be likely to prejudice their commercial interests. Disclosure of such information would reveal to competitors information about the commercial agreements between Glasgow Prestwick Airport and their business partners, which could be exploited by competitors whose aim is to gain a competitive advantage and would reveal details of their capital expenditure requirements, which would negatively impact Glasgow Prestwick Airport's ability to attract investment.

Public interest test

As this is a qualified exemption, the CAA has considered whether, in all of the circumstances of the case, the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. As well as the wider public interest in transparency, open government and the public right of access to information held, we also recognise that the proposed implementation of spaceflights in the UK is new and innovative, and the CAA recognises the public interest in understanding the impact of future spaceflights on UK aviation.

However, there is a strong public interest in organisations being able to compete fairly. The information, if disclosed, could be exploited by competitors, giving them an unfair advantage.

After considering the arguments outlined above, the CAA has concluded that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in disclosure is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption and we have withheld the redacted information under section 43(2) of the FOIA. A copy of this exemption can be found below.

Section 40 – Personal Information

We have also redacted personal information in accordance with S40(2) of the FOIA as to release the information would be unfair to the individuals concerned and would therefore contravene the first data protection principle that personal data shall be processed fairly and lawfully. A copy of this exemption can be found below.

If you are not satisfied with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you should approach the CAA in writing at:-

Caroline Chalk
Head of External Information Services
Civil Aviation Authority
Aviation House
Gatwick Airport South
Gatwick
RH6 0YR

caroline.chalk@caa.co.uk

The CAA has a formal internal review process for dealing with appeals or complaints in connection with Freedom of Information requests. The key steps in this process are set in the attachment.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under Section 50 of the FOIA to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner at:-

Information Commissioner's Office
FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

If you wish to request further information from the CAA, please use the form on the CAA website at <http://publicapps.caa.co.uk/modalapplication.aspx?appid=24>.

Yours sincerely



Rihanne Stephen
Information Rights Officer

CAA INTERNAL REVIEW & COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

- The original case to which the appeal or complaint relates is identified and the case file is made available;
- The appeal or complaint is allocated to an Appeal Manager, the appeal is acknowledged and the details of the Appeal Manager are provided to the applicant;
- The Appeal Manager reviews the case to understand the nature of the appeal or complaint, reviews the actions and decisions taken in connection with the original case and takes account of any new information that may have been received. This will typically require contact with those persons involved in the original case and consultation with the CAA Legal Department;
- The Appeal Manager concludes the review and, after consultation with those involved with the case, and with the CAA Legal Department, agrees on the course of action to be taken;
- The Appeal Manager prepares the necessary response and collates any information to be provided to the applicant;
- The response and any necessary information is sent to the applicant, together with information about further rights of appeal to the Information Commissioners Office, including full contact details.

Freedom of Information Act: Section 43

- (1) Information is exempt information if it constitutes a trade secret.
- (2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).
- (3) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would, or would be likely to, prejudice the interests mentioned in section (2).

Freedom of Information Act: Section 40

- (1) Any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.
- (2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if-
 - (a) it constitutes personal data which do not fall within subsection (1), and
 - (b) either the first or the second condition below is satisfied.
- (3) The first condition is-
 - (a) in a case where the information falls within any of paragraphs (a) to (d) of the definition of "data" in section 1(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998, that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene-
 - (i) any of the data protection principles, or
 - (ii) section 10 of that Act (right to prevent processing likely to cause damage or distress), and
 - (b) in any other case, that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene any of the data protection principles if the exemptions in section 33A(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998 (which relate to manual data held by public authorities) were disregarded.
- (4) The second condition is that by virtue of any provision of Part IV of the Data Protection Act 1998 the information is exempt from section 7(1)(c) of that Act (data subject's right of access to personal data).
- (5) The duty to confirm or deny-
 - (a) does not arise in relation to information which is (or if it were held by the public authority would be) exempt information by virtue of subsection (1), and
 - (b) does not arise in relation to other information if or to the extent that either-
 - (i) the giving to a member of the public of the confirmation or denial that would have to be given to comply with section 1(1)(a) would (apart from this Act) contravene any of the data protection principles or section 10 of the Data Protection Act 1998 or would do so if the exemptions in section 33A(1) of that Act were disregarded, or

(ii) by virtue of any provision of Part IV of the Data Protection Act 1998 the information is exempt from section 7(1)(a) of that Act (data subject's right to be informed whether personal data being processed).

(6) In determining for the purposes of this section whether anything done before 24th October 2007 would contravene any of the data protection principles, the exemptions in Part III of Schedule 8 to the Data Protection Act 1998 shall be disregarded.

(7) In this section-

"the data protection principles" means the principles set out in Part I of Schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act 1998, as read subject to Part II of that Schedule and section 27(1) of that Act;

"data subject" has the same meaning as in section 1(1) of that Act;

"personal data" has the same meaning as in section 1(1) of that Act.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Spaceport FOI request
Date: 30 October 2015 18:45:39
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[FOO12801 Covering letter to information.docx](#)
[FOO12801 emails for disclosure.docx](#)

[REDACTED]

Just running this draft reply and info we are releasing by you before sending out. I am not expecting this to cause you any concern, but if it does, please get back to me by close next Wednesday.

Cheers

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Aviation Policy Implementation
1/22-29 GMH, Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 4DR

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
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Department
for Transport

INTERNATIONAL AVIATION SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT
DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT
DIRECT LINE: 0207 944 5114
GTN No: 744 5114
e-mail @dft.gsi.gov.uk
Blackberry [REDACTED]

Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

By Email:

[REDACTED]

Xxx 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - F0012801

Thank you for your request for information dated 16 September 2015 seeking all internal and external correspondence, emails, and memos held by the Department for Transport referring to the potential location of a UK spaceport at Prestwick, Scotland.

Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'). I am writing to confirm that the Department has now completed its search for the information and a copy of the information that can be disclosed to you is attached to this letter.

The information that the Department holds that can be released at this time comprises of emails and other correspondence within the DfT and correspondence with other third parties that have been generated during the course of our work on horizontal spaceplanes.

As you will be aware, the Department consulted between 15 July and 6 October 2014, inviting views on key operational, safety, meteorological, environmental and economic criteria which the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and UK Space Agency identified to select a suitable site for a spaceport. We also invited views on the following eight potentially feasible locations the CAA had identified based on its criteria:

- Campbeltown Airport
- Glasgow Prestwick Airport
- Llanbedr Airfield
- Newquay Cornwall Airport
- Kinloss Barracks
- RAF Leuchars
- RAF Lossiemouth
- Stornoway Airport

The consultation elicited a number of responses, some of which referred to, commented on or supported possible locations for a spaceport, including Glasgow Prestwick. Copies

of responses to the consultation and the Government response can be found on the gov.uk website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/spaceport-locations-and-criteria>.

Some of the information sought relates to the formulation and development of Government policy to realise its ambition to enable spaceplane operations in the UK. Information of this nature has not been provided and is being withheld under Section 35 (1) (a) and (b) of the Act, which applies to information that relates to the formulation or development of government policy and Ministerial communications.

Some of the information sought also constitutes legal advice under is therefore being withheld under section 42 of the Act, which applies to information that is subject to Legal Professional Privilege.

Exemptions under sections 35 and 42 are subject to a public interest test. Public interest arguments considered by the Department, as well as the full text of each exemption is set out in the Annex A to this letter.

Additionally, some of the information constitutes personal data and has therefore been withheld. Section 40 of the Act provides an absolute exemption for personal data which then falls to be dealt with under the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). Personal data of third parties can only be disclosed in accordance with the data protection principles. In particular, the first data protection principles requires that disclosure must be fair and lawful and must comply with one of the conditions in Schedule 2 of the DPA. We do not think that it is fair to release the names of junior members of staff or third parties and do not think that any of the relevant conditions apply.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. A copy of this response and the information provided may now be published on the www.gov.uk web-site, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

If you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the Department's FOI Advice Team at:

Zone D/04
Ashdown House
Sedlescombe Road North
Hastings
East Sussex TN37 7GA
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Please send or copy any follow-up correspondence relating to this request to the FOI Advice Team to help ensure that it receives prompt attention. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

██████████

Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Annex A

Section 35

FOI section 35: full text of exemption

Information held by a government department or by the National Assembly for Wales is exempt information if it relates to:

- (a) the formulation or development of government policy
- (b) Ministerial communications.

Public Interest Test

We recognise that the ambition for a spaceport in the UK will generate legitimate interest among the public especially in areas which have been identified as potential locations for a UK spaceport. Disclosure of the information would be likely to contribute to promoting government transparency and accountability, increase public awareness, and facilitate public participation in the democratic process. Release of information is also likely to facilitate public involvement in the formulation of such policy, which has the potential to make that policy both more effective and more likely to command public support. The Government has provided transparency on initial work in this area by publishing detailed technical reports relating to the operation of spaceplanes in the UK and potentially feasible locations in the UK for a spaceport. It has also consulted on the criteria and potentially feasible locations the CAA identified based on these and published the responses received to consultation and the then Government's response on 3 March 2015.

On the other hand, there are strong public interest arguments for withholding some of the information in question. In particular, the government needs a safe space to develop ideas, debate live issues, and reach decisions away from external interference and distraction. The weight of this interest will diminish over time as policy becomes more certain and a decision as to policy is made public. However, both spaceplane technology and the Government's policy formulation and development of options for identifying the location of a UK spaceport are still at a formative stage. Premature disclosure of policy information generated as part of policy formulation in this area is likely to impact on future generation and discussion of ideas. It could inhibit frankness and openness and production of detailed advice. This in turn would likely lead to poorer decision-making and hinder the process of policy formulation.

The view of the Department is that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in its release. The particular sensitivity of the information as

well as the relative infancy of the policy formulation and development process weigh heavily in favour on non-disclosure at this time.

Section 42

Fol section 42: full text of exemption

42 (1) Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege or, in Scotland, to confidentiality of communications could be maintained in legal proceedings is exempt information.

Public Interest Test

Certain information sought constitutes legal advice under section 42 of the Act. Disclosure of this information would be likely to contribute to promoting government transparency and accountability, increase public awareness, and facilitate public participation in the democratic process. Release of information is also likely to facilitate public involvement in the formulation of such policy, which has the potential to make that policy both more effective and more likely to command public support.

On the other hand, there is a strong presumption in favour of withholding legal professional privileged information. Safeguarding openness in all communications between client and lawyer to ensure access to full and frank legal advice is fundamental to the administration of justice. Furthermore, the information in question relates to matters which are still live.

Overall, the view of the Department is that the public interest in disclosing the information does not outweigh the strong public interest in maintaining legal professional privilege.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - F0012801

“internal and external correspondence, emails, and memos held by the Department for Transport referring to the potential location of a UK spaceport at Prestwick, Scotland”

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Two Questions

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

[REDACTED]

As you know we are planning to publish the Exec Summary document and full technical report produced by the CAA for phase 1 (the Gov Review) at the Farnborough Airshow.

In the reports the CAA has applied certain criteria, that would be acceptable to both UK and US regulators, for a spaceport location in the UK. We intend to announce the following additional items at Farnbough:

1. A consultation to test the criteria the CAA has applied to potential spaceport location sites (8 sites, which include Newquay, Llanbedr, Machrihanish, Prestwick, Stornoway, RAF Kinloss, RAF Lossiemouth and RAF Leuchars) I would be grateful if you would keep this within Virgin as the sites do not yet know they are on the list.
- 2 Announcement of Phase 2 (Implementing Phase 1)
3. Announcement of non-binding agreement with FAA-AST to collaborate on suborbital spaceplanes.

I can also confirm that the intention is to fly out to the US in early september (probably w/c 8 September). It would probably be best for us to do Virgin (either in New Mexico or California) then do Washington on (Wed/Thur). This all has to be confirmed and will be subject to availability of people etc. But it would be an excellent opportunity to tie this in with a launch.

[REDACTED] \ Head of UK Aviation Safety \ International Aviation, Safety & Environment \
Department for Transport \ Great Minster House \ Zone 1/26, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 4DR \
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I have been asked to respond to your e-mail of 20 July about the Government's ambition to establish a spaceport in the UK.

Thank you for registering your interest in this project. I am leading on the current government consultation <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/spaceport-locations-and-criteria>. At this stage, we are seeking views on criteria identified by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) as key to determine the best location for a UK Spaceport and whether there are any other factors or criteria that should be considered in supporting a site for a spaceport in the UK. We are also seeking views on the eight potentially feasible locations which the CAA has identified based on its criteria. In particular, whether any of these locations should be disregarded and why? And also, whether other locations should be considered further?

As you may be aware, the eight aerodromes shortlisted in the consultation are:

- Campbeltown Airport
- Glasgow Prestwick Airport
- Kinloss Barracks
- Llanbedr Airfield
- Newquay Cornwall Airport
- RAF Leuchars
- RAF Lossiemouth
- Stornoway Airport

The consultation runs from 15 July 2014 to 6 October 2014. Following consultation, the Department for Transport expects to publish a response and invite interested parties to put themselves forward as a preferred location for development.

At this stage, the Department has not approached or appointed any external contractors to assist with this work.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Department for Transport | International Air Safety and Environment | Air Navigation - Charging and Performance | Great Minster House | 33 Horseferry Road | LONDON SW1P 4DR | + [REDACTED]

I normally work from home on Mondays and Tuesdays:

My out of office contact number is 0 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 27 March 2015 12:03

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Link from Twitter

[Prestwick and Campbeltown keen to host UK spaceport - BBC News](#)

[Download](#) the Twitter app

Sent from iPhone please excuse brevity or typos

This email was scanned by the Government Secure Intranet anti-virus service supplied by Vodafone in partnership with Symantec. (CCTM Certificate Number 2009/09/0052.) In case of problems, please call your organisations IT Helpdesk.

Communications via the GSi may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 30 July 2015 09:45

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: The Likely Location of first Spaceport in the UK

Dear [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has forwarded me your enquiry about the likely location of a UK spaceport.

The Government's ambition is for a UK spaceport that will be an integral part of Britain's future in space, providing a focus for regional and international investment, creating new job opportunities, supporting our existing cutting-edge technology companies, and securing UK leadership in an important emerging market.

As you may be aware, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has studied the potential for horizontal, sub-orbital spaceplane operations from the UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/commercial-spaceplane-certification-and-operations-uk-government-review>.

Following consultation on criteria identified by the CAA for locating a UK spaceport <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/spaceport-locations-and-criteria>, Campbeltown Airport, Glasgow Prestwick Airport, Llanbedr Airfield, Newquay Cornwall Airport and Stornoway were identified as potential locations for a permanent UK spaceport. RAF Leuchars was identified as a potential temporary facility.

We do not yet have a firm timetable for taking a decision on the final location. Our current focus is on developing a detailed technical specification of requirements to provide potential locations with clarity on the detail of what becoming a UK spaceport for horizontal spaceplane operations would involve. It is critical that we provide as much certainty as possible so that potential locations can assess whether spaceplane operations are both feasible and deliverable. Our next step is to start sharing our work with potential locations this September.

I am happy to keep you updated as we progress our work.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | European Airspace & UK Spaceport policy, Aviation Policy Implementation, Department for Transport

[REDACTED]

All,

Please see below copy in the Sunday Times today suggesting that Donald Trump is backing calls for Prestwick to be chosen as the UK's spaceport site. Note that the copy suggests the shortlisted options is down to three – the Scottish Sun has checked this with us (as the last public announcement on this said there were six shortlisted options), and I am currently double-checking with officials and CAA.

Kind regards, [REDACTED]

Trump joins Scottish space race

[REDACTED] Published: 9 August 2015

COULD it be Hairforce One? The Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, who is famous for his comb-over hairstyle, wants to help the wealthy blast into space from a Scottish airport.

The tycoon is backing calls for Prestwick airport in Ayrshire to be chosen as the launchpad for commercial space flights and will offer VIP packages for passengers at his nearby Turnberry golf resort if it is.

In its bid, a consortium will unveil Trump as the exclusive hotel partner for rich space tourists jetting into the region from across the globe. Tailor-made packages will include castle tours, visits to distilleries and island-hopping in the Hebrides.

Those rumoured to have signed up to become astronaut tourists include Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt, Stephen Hawking and Kate Winslet.

Ministers have backed plans for a fourfold expansion of the UK space industry to £40bn by 2030 and are keen to see a spaceport established by 2018. The shortlist is down to three: Prestwick, owned by the Scottish government, Newquay in Cornwall and Llanbedr in Wales.

A spokesman for Trump said: "We think it's a tremendous opportunity for Scotland and the UK. It is the next generation of travel, the new frontier."

Stuart McIntyre of the Prestwick Spaceport Consortium said the "Trump factor" was a glamorous addition to its bid.



5/27-31 GMH, Great Minster House,
33, Horseferry Road., London, SW1P 4DR

0207 944 3123 07826 921 268

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PA copy on today's Spaceports announcement with the government response to the consultation. The copy includes quotes from Robert Goodwill, BIS Secretary Vince Cable, Scottish Secretary Alistair Carmichael and Scottish politicians. The only negative point of view is from Angus Robertson SNP MP who criticises the MoD's decision to remove Kinloss and Lossiemouth from consideration. Both bases are in his constituency.

SPACEPORT LOCATION SHORTLIST CUT

HHH SCIENCE Spaceport

Topic [SCIENCE](#)

 Published 03 Mar 2015 - 16:50

By Lucinda Cameron, Press Association Scotland

Pages: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#)

Page 1: 14:08

Six sites which could become Britain's first spaceport have been announced by the UK Government.

The shortlist has been cut from the eight named last July following a three-month consultation.

The six sites are now Campbeltown, Argyll and Bute, Glasgow Prestwick in South Ayrshire and Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis in Scotland, as well as Newquay in Cornwall and Llanbedr in north Wales. RAF Leuchars in Fife was also confirmed as a potential temporary facility. Two airfields at RAF Lossiemouth and Kinloss Barracks in Moray have been ruled out by the Government for "overriding military operational factors".

The aim is to have an operational spaceport by 2018, which could be used to launch tourists into space as well as commercial satellites.

Aviation minister Robert Goodwill said: "I want Britain to lead the way in commercial spaceflight. Establishing a spaceport will ensure we are at the forefront of this exciting new technology.

"Today's consultation response marks another step forward in our work to support this emerging industry, which will create jobs and drive economic growth."

The next step will be for the Department for Transport to develop a detailed technical specification of spaceport requirements, due to be published later this year, before inviting proposals.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said potential spaceport sites should have a runway which is already more than 3,000m (9842ft) long or could be extended to that length, and is located away from densely populated areas.

It should also be able to accommodate areas of segregated special use airspace to manage space flights safely.

The CAA also strongly recommended that a spaceport should be situated at a coastal location.

Business Secretary Vince Cable said: "Paving the way for a national spaceport is one of our biggest science achievements in this parliament. It greatly underscores the work of our space innovation and growth strategy to position the UK as a world-leader in this exciting arena that is expected to be worth up to £400 billion a year to the global economy by 2030.

"Launching satellites and operating commercial space flights from our shores was once only confined to the depths of science fiction, but with the results of this consultation we are one step closer to making this a very real ability in the near future."

SNP Moray MP Angus Robertson criticised the decision to rule out the two sites in his constituency.

He said: "The announcement that Kinloss and Lossiemouth have both been ruled out as potential spaceport sites is an extremely bad decision by the UK Government.

"I am utterly mystified that the Ministry of Defence assessment has reached this conclusion, particularly at Kinloss, whose runway is barely used since the Nimrods were removed from service and which has acres of space that could be better used.

"Given the keen interest shown in Moray's location and facilities by Virgin Galactic it is an inexplicable decision.

"Many folk in Moray, both in public agencies and in the wider community, have backed the idea of a spaceport here and have evidenced the suitability of the area for it. They will be hugely disappointed by a decision that simply defies logic."

The Government said that while its current focus is to identify the best location for sub-orbital spaceplane operations, this does not prejudice any long-term consideration of a vertical launch facility.

ends

Page 2: 14:27

Scottish Infrastructure, Investment and Cities Secretary Keith Brown said: "Today's announcement provides some welcome clarity around the criteria and what is required moving forward, in particular the technical requirements governing infrastructure, airspace management and safety.

"Our main focus is on ensuring the spaceport is based in Scotland and each owner and their local partners will now decide whether to progress their own bid in light of today's detail.

"As we've consistently said, we stand ready to support and offer advice to any Scottish bid - not just Prestwick.

"While Prestwick Airport would appear to be in a strong position, there may also be scope to utilise more airfields in Scotland as part of any successful bid to ensure other parts of the country benefit along the way."

Iain Cochrane, chief executive of Glasgow Prestwick Airport, welcomed the announcement of the shortlist.

He said: "Prestwick Airport has been a pioneer of the UK aerospace industry and aviation since its foundation in 1935. I believe Prestwick offers the perfect conditions for space launches and our extensive developed concrete airfield and 3km runway provide the facilities needed for all types of re-usable spacecraft in development.

"We have an experienced hi-tech aerospace workforce and a substantial aviation and hi-tech engineering industrial footprint. Our Scottish Enterprise incentive zone supports the growth of the space industry."

He added: "While we have safe over-water flight paths, we also have over four million people within a two-hour drive, giving us access to the widest range of specialists and expertise. This combination of features is unique amongst the sites being considered and positions Prestwick as the leading candidate to become the UK's first spaceport."

Mr Cochrane also said universities in Glasgow and Ayr are at the forefront of space and aerospace engineering research and teaching.

ends

Page 3: 16:50

Scottish Secretary Alistair Carmichael said: "This Government wants the UK to become a European and indeed a global focal point for the pioneers of commercial spaceflights and scientific research.

"We are encouraging inward investment from companies who are prepared to make a real commitment to the growth of our space sector, creating jobs and opportunities for the wider UK supply chain.

"Today's announcement underlines the potential benefits for communities across the country. With three places shortlisted for a UK spaceport located in Scotland and RAF Leuchars also confirmed as a potential temporary facility, it's clear Scotland has much to offer this emerging industry."

Scottish Conservative Ayr MSP John Scott said: "As we examine all the possibilities to turn around the fortunes of Prestwick Airport, I believe the spaceport bid represents a huge opportunity and it's one we have to pursue as vigorously as possible.

"Securing a commercial spaceport for Prestwick could bring in revenue from test flights, further boost the hi-tech reputation of our local aerospace campus and bring new visitors to our area and a welcome boost to our tourism sector."
mfl



[Redacted]

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**Extract from Email: Dame Deirdre Hutton's feedback from Scotland
30 June 2016 at 16:21.**

Glasgow Prestwick Airport

This was really interesting, mainly for the spaceport. Prestwick were very pleased that the govt decided to go for a market solution because they believe they are well out in front. They used a US consultant who is familiar with FAA rules to assess how far off compliance they were with FAA requirements. The answer was that they could be compliant with about [REDACTED] expenditure. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] They have had discussions with satellite manufacturers in the UK who would be very keen to use Prestwick. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Other than that, they have a mixed programme for: military aviation, cargo, sun and sand destinations and spaceport. They have good storage facilities and two large units were currently full of stuff for (I think) a Beyonce concerts. They were also awaiting the arrival of Donald Trump. Finally, did you know that Prestwick Airport is the only place in the UK to have been visited by Elvis Presley!