

# SPACE INDUSTRY BILL [HL]

## EXPLANATORY NOTES ON COMMONS AMENDMENTS

*[This replaces HL Bill 85-EN]*

### What these notes do

- 1 These Explanatory Notes relate to the Commons amendments to the Space Industry Bill [HL] as brought from the House of Commons on 22 February 2018 (HL Bill 87).
- 2 These Explanatory Notes have been prepared by the Department for Transport and the United Kingdom Space Agency in order to assist the reader of the Bill and the Commons amendments, and to help inform debate on the Commons amendments. They do not form part of the Bill and have not been endorsed by Parliament.
- 3 These Explanatory Notes, like the Commons amendments themselves, refer to HC Bill 137 the Bill as first printed for the Commons.
- 4 These Explanatory Notes need to be read in conjunction with the Commons amendments and the text of the Bill. They are not, and are not meant to be, a comprehensive description of the Commons amendments.
- 5 Commons amendments 1 to 6 were tabled in the name of the Minister.

### Commentary on Commons amendments

#### Commons amendment inserting new Clause after Clause 10: Grant of licences: assessments of environmental effects

##### Commons amendment 1

- 6 This amendment places a mandatory requirement on an applicant for either a launch or spaceport licence to submit an assessment of the environmental effects caused by their proposed activity as a pre-condition to receiving a licence. The regulator is under a duty to take into account the submitted assessment in determining the licence application and any conditions which should be attached to it.

#### Commons amendments to Clause 34

##### Commons amendments 2, 3, 4, 5

- 7 Amendments 2, 3, 4 and 5 require the Secretary of State to indemnify a claimant where an operator's liability for injury or damage to prescribed persons is capped under Clause 34(5). This would apply to amounts over an operator's capped liability. These amendments provide certainty that claimants would receive compensation in situations where spaceflight activities caused injury or damage that exceeded an operator's capped liability under Clause 34(5).

#### Commons amendment to Clause 71

##### Commons amendment 6

- 8 Amendment 6 removes the "privilege" amendment inserted by the House of Lords before the Bill's passage to the Commons in accordance with normal practice.

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