

Orrery Update December 2020

Consultation on proposed statutory charges, covering spaceflight charges, under the revised CAA Charges Scheme 2021/22

This consultation seeks views on all aspects of the proposed revisions to the existing CAA Charges Schemes for the year 2021/22, including for spaceflight activities under the Space Industry Act 2018, which are due to take effect from 1 April 2021

On 26 November 2020, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), published a [consultation](#) on the proposed revisions to statutory charges in the CAA Charges Schemes (**Consultation**), which are due to take effect from 1 April 2021. The Consultation covers charges for both aviation and spaceflight.

The Consultation supplements the UK Government's recent consultation on "Unlocking Commercial Spaceflight for the UK: Consultation on draft insurance and liabilities requirements to implement the Space Industry Act 2018" which closed on 10 November 2020.

The CAA's Consultation seeks views on all aspects of the proposals, including the structure and the level of the proposed charges.

Under the proposed charging schemes, the CAA will be responsible for implementing the Space Industry Act 2018 (SIA) licence fees, which apply to spaceport; launch operators; return operators; range control service providers; and orbital operators who will be licensed under the SIA. The UK Space Agency (UKSA) will continue to be responsible for setting space activities licence fees for licences granted under the Outer Space Act 1986 (OSA), with the UKSA's charging powers expected to be transferred to the CAA through

legislation in 2022 or 2023.

A summary of the Government's charging proposals is as follows.

- There will be no charges (cost recovery) in relation to spaceport, launch and range licensing for the first three years, with funding being provided by the Government for this period.
- The costs of initial operations and licensing are likely to be high as the CAA gains experience and matures its safety-critical functions, especially given the initially low volume of applications anticipated.
- A charging scheme will be implemented in 2024, moving to full cost recovery over a phased approach, subject to annual review.
- In relation to OSA licensing, the charge will remain at £6,500 per licence. The same fees will also be charged for SIA satellite (orbital operations) licensing.
- It is proposed that SIA orbital operator licence fees will take effect by 1 April 2021, however it may be later in 2021 that regulations made under the SIA will be in force for the regulator to receive licence applications.

The Consultation closes at 12 midnight GMT on 4 February 2021.

Please contact Joanne Wheeler if you would like more information on the Consultation.



Joanne Wheeler MBE
Managing Partner
joanne.wheeler@wearealden.com



Vicky Jeong
Associate (admitted in New York)
vicky.jeong@wearealden.com



Eleanor Winn
Paralegal
eleanor.winn@wearealden.com