Department for Transport

From the Secretary of State
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Lord Berkeley of Knighton

Lord Davies of Gower

House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

19 November 2026

Dear Lord Berkeley and Lord Davies,

Thank you for your letter of 31 October 2026, about reinstating the European – Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS) in the UK. I am grateful to you for setting out the potential benefits of EGNOS and the concerns of the aviation and air ambulance sectors.

The UK lost access to the EGNOS system in 2021 following exit of the European Union (EU). EGNOS is the EU's Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS), which improves the accuracy, reliability and integrity of satellite navigation signals. As you highlight in your letter, this can support safety-critical transport operations, including aircraft approaches and maritime navigation. Other stakeholders have also told us about the impact that the loss of access to the EGNOS Safety-of-Life service has had, particularly at airports serving remote communities.

The Government is currently undertaking a comprehensive assessment of the transport case and practical considerations associated with potential UK participation in EGNOS, as well as the cost of rejoining. As part of this work, we are seeking evidence from those affected. We recognise the important benefits that EGNOS can provide, particularly in supporting access to essential services, the reliability of search and rescue and helicopter emergency medical services, aviation safety, and the resilience of regional connectivity. The potential benefits for remote and geographically isolated communities, where reliable air connectivity can be particularly important, are a key consideration in our work.

I am grateful to you for highlighting these issues and welcome your continued engagement. The points raised in your letter closely reflect many of the

issues we are actively considering, and we are ensuring that these are properly examined.

Thank you again for writing and for your continued engagement on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT