



Highlands and Islands Enterprise  
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

## AIRSPACE CHANGE PROCESS

During a launch, other aircraft will need to be excluded from the airport that the launch vehicle flies through.

- Temporary changes to airspace can be made by issuing a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) advising them of an unusual aerial activity.
- The spaceport is currently developing a proposal to be submitted to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) that will seek approval for a more permanent arrangement to be activated and deactivated when protection to the space launches is required.
- The spaceport is following the CAA's process described in CAP 1616 "Airspace Design: Guidance on the regulatory process for changing airspace design including community engagement requirements."
- <https://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/CAP1616E2noninteractive.pdf>
- The process has already started and is at stage 1b which seeks to establish the Design Principles to underpin any final airspace design solution. High level stakeholder engagement activities are underway.
- Questionnaires have been sent out to representative organisations and focus groups have been arranged with aviation and non-aviation stakeholders to inform the development of the Design Principles.
- The process is meant to be transparent and requires stakeholders to be engaged at an early stage to influence the design options, prior to a formal consultation activity later in the process.
- Those organisations invited to the focus groups will be contacted directly by HIE. The questionnaires, and the focus groups form part of a very early stage of the CAP 1616 process and a full consultation activity will take place at stage 3, where the public will be able to comment on the proposed airspace solution.

The airspace change process is a completely separate process to the planning application process with both activities regulated by different authorities. Therefore, they each require separate public engagement and consultation activities, and there will inevitably be some overlap in the two processes.