



SPACEPORT 1 NORTH UIST AIRSPACE CHANGE PROPOSAL (ACP-2021-012)

[STATEMENT]

12 August 2021

As part of '*Stage 1 – Define*' of the CAP1616 airspace change process, the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has completed a Define Gateway Assessment of QinetiQ Ltd's airspace change proposal (ACP).

In order for the CAA to allow an ACP to pass through the Define Gateway, the change sponsor must have:

- The change sponsor must have produced a Statement of Need and the CAA has determined that an airspace change is an appropriate option to consider against the requirements in Appendix A
- The change sponsor must have produced design principles
- The change sponsor must have met with the CAA to discuss the airspace change process (unless a meeting was not required) and demonstrated that it understands what will be required of it
- The change sponsor must have explained to the CAA's satisfaction how the design principles were influenced through stakeholder engagement against the requirements in Appendix D

In our Gateway Assessment, the CAA could not establish that the Design Principles were adequate and evolved through two-way stakeholder engagement as defined in CAP1616. Therefore, it is our view that it did not meet the guidance as set out in CAP1616 Appendix D and the CAA does not approve progress to the next Step.

The CAA has informed the change sponsor of this decision and provided detailed feedback. In line with CAP1616, the change sponsor is now able to reconsider its Design Principle(s) before resubmitting it for further review by the CAA at a future Define Gateway.

It is important to note that whether an ACP passes a gateway successfully or not does not predetermine the CAA's later final decision on whether to approve the airspace change proposal. This decision is not an explicit or implicit comment on the merits or otherwise of this ACP. This will come at the decision-making stage (Stage 5).

[END STATEMENT]