

COMMENT/QUESTION	RESPONSE
17. How will the construction work be phased?	A Construction Environment Management Plan, including details of the phasing of construction works, was submitted to and approved by The Council prior to the current works commencing on the site. That will be updated as part of the process of securing and implementing the consent for the revised scheme.
18. Will people be prevented from coming and going from their houses in Tongue during a launch?	We have worked closely with Highlands and Islands Enterprise and The Highland Council in relation to the creation of a local byelaw that would restrict access to an area called the launch exclusion zone around the spaceport during a launch in order to protect public safety. The byelaw will be owned and delivered by The Highland Council and will apply only during the period immediately before the launch. Details of the proposal considered by the Sutherland County Committee on 16 May 2023 showed that the area covered did not include any residential or other properties. Consultation with stakeholders will be carried out by The Council before the byelaw is finalised.
19. Will there be road closures during a launch?	There will be no road closures required during the launch. There will though likely be a temporary no stopping order to prevent people blocking the road to view a launch.
20. How will the launch pad be constructed?	<p>A Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) was submitted to and approved by The Council prior to the current works commencing on the site, with details of the method of construction of the approved launch pad included in that. The CEMP will be updated as part of the process of securing and implementing the consent for the revised scheme.</p> <p>As set out in the approved CEMP, the launch pad will be a heavily reinforced concrete slab with additional concrete slabs either side and gravel (or similar surfaced zone) around this for fire protection.</p>
21. What will be in the containers on Ben Tongue?	The containers will house technical equipment for the operation of the range, as well as a welfare container for staff whilst on the site.
22. Are you allowed to use the existing road up Ben Tongue?	Yes, we are able to use the existing track up to Ben Tongue, although we require to construct a short section of new track to enable vehicles to deliver the equipment.
23. Will there be a new planning application and a new environmental report?	<p>Yes, this public consultation event is part of the pre-application process which we need to undertake before we can submit a new planning application. The planning application will be supported by a new environmental impact assessment report.</p> <p>Although the changes are minor, the submission of a planning application enables The Council to assess them as a whole and provides an opportunity for the community to comment on them.</p>
24. What are the timescales for the planning process?	As required by planning regulations, on 2 November 2023, we submitted a proposal of application notice to The Highland Council advising them of our intention to submit a major development application for the revised scheme for the spaceport (including the relocation of the antenna park to Ben Tongue). We are now required to carry out public consultation within a three-month period before submitting the planning application. But we intend to submit the application in the first quarter of 2024. The Council will then need up to four months to consider the application, but given the nature of the proposed changes they may be able to determine the application more quickly than that.
25. What is happening at the next public consultation event?	The next public consultation event is primarily for us to provide feedback on the comments made at the first event, as well as any comments later emailed/posted to us. There will also be an opportunity for members of the public to ask any further questions or make additional comments.