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Dear Elena

Drones are good for the UK economy and for public services, but to reach their potential in the UK, industry, academia and government need to work closely together.

Drones are already helping to save money and save lives through a wide range of uses from sensing and imaging, to carrying freight to delivering new remote operation tools. But there are significant technological improvements still needed, including in materials, detect and avoid capabilities, optics, software and power drives.

Government stands to benefit significantly from new drone services to market and should do all it can to ensure the UK is the best place to start and grow a drone business. In particular, drone businesses need

- An overarching, ambitious vision for the UK, managing a safe transition from remotely piloted to autonomous flight, beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS)
- Direct contracts with drone companies providing new solutions and services to solve long-standing problems in areas of the environment, flooding, planning, fishing and coasts
- An effective architecture for drone use, including a UAV traffic management system and robust communications platforms, future proofed for BVLOS
- Ongoing research, including from government, to help deliver essential underpinning capabilities; this could include UKRI challenge funds or direct procurement contracts for specific public applications
- A clear and speedy approvals process for systems, and certainty in law for operators
- The UK government to promote European and international support for drones, to enable UK providers to win in export markets

I and the members of the Drone Industry Action Group stand ready to assist. With supportive policy and regulation, for drones, the sky is no longer the limit.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iain Gray'.

Professor Iain Gray  
Chair of the Drone Industry Action Group