

Manston Airport DCO Examination

Simon Crow verbal presentation at the Open Hearings on 12th January 2019 in Margate

I am Simon Crow, a concerned resident of Ramsgate and a member of NNF. Mr Chairman, it is right that you are requesting issues and assertions to be backed up by proper evidence. And, I will do that in my written submission to you.

NOISE

It is a fact of life that the centre of Ramsgate is less than 2 kilometres from, and aligned directly over, the centre of the town. It is my judgement that the Applicant is grossly under-estimating the impact of noise and disturbance for people under the flight path. Past known and recorded noise data from previous flights clearly indicates that the impact of noise will be much higher than the Applicant is leading us to believe.

NIGHT FLIGHTS

The RSP Directors tell us, ad nauseum, they do not want and do not need night flights. Yet their written submission to the Planning Inspectorate tells a very different story. At many points in the documents it refers to various night flight levels and to night flight quotas? So, what is the real truth about night flights?

WORST CASE SCENARIO

The Applicant has stated its worst case scenario as being 17,100 ATMS per annum. But, just recently, based on the plan for 19 aircraft stands, this could be 83,000 ATMs per annum. We need to know the Applicant's real intentions here.

MY CONCLUSION from this

If this DCO is granted, Ramsgate would become the most noise and air polluted urban centre anywhere in the UK.

AZIMUTH

The entirety of the Applicant's business case is dependent on the Azimuth reports. We will present our critiques of those reports in our written submissions to you. Furthermore, three independent reports from aviation experts each conclude that Manston cannot be viable.

We submit, Mr Chairman, that the Azimuth Reports are a fiction. And therefore the Applicant's case is without foundation.

BUSINESS CASE

There is no business case presented in the Applicant's submission. Any investor would want to see a fully-evidenced business plan, with cash flow and profit & loss forecasts for the life of the project. Nothing like that is in the submission.

IN CONCLUSION

This is entirely a speculative private venture. Therefore, I would respectfully suggest, Mr Chairman, that you need to be fully satisfied that we are not dealing here with a severe case of Naïve Optimism!

Thank you!