

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Manston Airport](#)  
**Subject:** Manston Airport DCO Examiners. submission for Deadline 3.  
**Date:** 15 February 2019 19:38:22

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Dear Sirs,

I am a lifetime resident of Ramsgate...I am only able to send you my heartfelt letter in my own words and from my own experience of living under the Manston Airport flight path all my life ....not evidence based, just life long experience  
I wish to attest to my own personal experience from a lifetime of living under the Manston Airport flightpath from childhood onwards and offering my experience and honesty as evidence.

I've lived under the flight path in Ramsgate since I was born in 1949, I've have since lived in seven homes in my lifetime and always lived alongside Manston airport.

I was born, lived my childhood and teenage years in a back to back terraced house in St Lawrence / Newington, Ramsgate during the RAF and USAF years. The fighter jet planes were noisy and flew over over my street anytime day or night, competing with the booming chuff chuff noise from the steam trains and the rattle and clanging from the freight wagons that regularly passed by at the bottom of our street. My brothers, sister, friends, neighbour's including our pet dogs and cats, never turned a hair, we just never heard the planes while we played our games out in the streets and the playgrounds and as we listened to our radio or watched TV during our evenings at home.

This was in the days before double glazing and roof or wall insulation, I dont remember us kids nor our parents ever complaining about any noise, it was simply part of our lives.

So, there is no reason for the anti airport protesters at the Pins DCO Examination meeting at the Winter Gardens in Margate, to say that if a freight hub is at Manston Airport, neither they nor their children will be able to sleep, be educated in their schools, not safe to let their children play outside for fear of putting their health at risk!

When I married, I lived in a 3rd floor 1 bedroom flat in Crescent Rd, still under the fight path around 3 to 4 hundred yards from Ramsgate's Royal Harbour. My first baby was born here in 1970, she never once was disturbed during her daytime naps, while sleeping through the night or left napping in her pram outside to sleep in the fresh air (as was the norm in those days).

My second baby was born after we moved to a newish but thin walled maisonette in Stirling Way, at the boundary of Newington less than a mile from the Manston runway, and ...you've guessed it, neither my toddler child or my newborn baby, my husband or myself had our sleep disturbed by planes flying overhead.

My next move was to a 150yr old four story house in Codrington Rd, just on the edge of Ramsgate's town centre and again directly under the flight path from the harbour to Manston Airport. My children played outside in our garden and in the streets just as my husband and myself did when we were children without a thought for the planes flying over our house. Our tall 4 story house has never suffered from any damage from low flying planes since it was built, whether RAF /USAF wartime bombers, fighter jets, Vulcan Bombers, old Russian Cargo or modern passenger Jumbo Jets or Concorde. In fact the anti airport protesters, many of whom said in their oral submissions to DCO

Examiners at the Winter Gardens, that they had moved to Ramsgate less than 4 years ago, were not genuine in their concerns that their Regency or Georgian listed houses they had purchased in Ramsgate would suffer severe damage from aircraft.

Having lived here all of my life I can honestly say I have never witnessed or heard about any of our historic buildings, our houses, our 15+ story blocks of flats in Ramsgate that have been damaged by aircraft...even St Laurence Church, standing right under the flight path and a thousand years old... has not been damaged by any plane!

The following 25yrs of my life were lived at the Nethercourt Estate, directly where the planes often crossed over the roof of my 1970s built house....just before the planes touch down on the runway.

One of the anti airport protesters who read out his submission at the Winter Gardens, said he lived on Nethercourt Estate and said that most of those living on the estate do not want a Cargo Hub at Manston. He also said that one person complained that when the Airport was still operational their washing was often covered in black specks.....Again I have to say, that I've never experienced any black specks on my washing hung out on the washing line in my garden on the estate!

Nobody that I ever met on our estate ever complained about the planes and when Concorde or other iconic planes flew over our estate while landing or taking off at Manston... everyone would be excited and out on the streets and gardens, with a smile on their face.

There was of course occasionally, a flight by one of the larger humanitarian aid flights, landing or taking off in the night, that did spark some conversations the following day... but all in all the Nethercourt community felt proud that Manston Airport's lengthy and very wide runway was able to take these sizeably heavy planes to assist whenever there was serious trouble anywhere in the world ... yes we were very proud that our Airport was able to help.

I've always lived directly under the flight path....where and when I moved home, the flight path was and has never been a consideration and 4 yrs before the airport closed I moved from Nethercourt Estate to the border of Ramsgate and Broadstairs to live close to my disabled relative ....now after 8yrs I am moving back to the Nethercourt /Newington area where I was born and raised..... Next to the runway again !!

I would like to tell you about my mother in law who moved into one of the first homes built on the Newington Council Estate in 1949... she still lives there, still enjoys good health and looks after herself at the age of 98. My own mother's life was much the same, moved to Newington, St Laurence area in 1947 and bought her family up also under the flight path, she lived an active life until she was 90yrs old. Their lives have not been shortened by living under the Manston Airport flight path.

Considering the poor area of Newington and Thanet where I lived, the people were relatively healthy, we believed this to be because most of Thanet is an island, surrounded by fresh sea air, perfect for an Airport to operate because any pollution is quickly dispersed out to sea.

Many of the youths and men I knew as I grew up in the 50s and 60s were not so lucky, spending long hours underground in the coalmines as they had little choice of work in the area and to earn a decent wage they would work down the Coal Mines for much of their lives and many of my friend's fathers suffered lost limbs or died from Pneumoconiosis, a killer lung disease caused by coal dust.

One of my abiding memories as a 12yr old girl was tagging along to my older brother's Secondary School Open Careers Day and seeing just 3 Career stalls set out in the school

hall....the two largest stall choices were an Army Career and a Coalmining Career .....that was it, and we all understood that the other alternative would be seasonal work, extremely low paid farm work and even lower paid seasonal cafe and hotel work....offering just a few months work during the summer months.

With Manston Airport back and with freight and passenger flights, properly marketed, it will bring people from the continent to holiday in Thanet and SE Kent, just as millions fly to other tourist destinations. Some may come and stay here to set up businesses, bringing much needed work to this area.

A Cargo Hub and Passenger Airport would have the ability to attract larger companies that see a great opportunity to have a readily available workforce and a state of the art easily accessible Airport on its doorstep, enabling their goods to be flown into cities throughout the UK and the continent and onto almost any country in the world.

The Manston Airport antis have little imagination on what the visitors to Thanet want or need to enjoy in a holiday resort. They talk only of tourists visiting the beaches and the seafront cafes, though much loved by the weekend yachting visitors....but in truth, apart from last year's summer season, the UK weather is never reliable enough to encourage visitors to come to Ramsgate just for the seafront 'coffee culture', which from the oral submissions against reviving Manston Airport, appears to be all they want to protect and have a complete disregard for what towns like Ramsgate and Herne Bay really need. Our failing seaside towns need all-weather activities. One of the most popular attractions was the Manston Museum and cafe/restaurant, right next to the Airport. It used to attract lots of tourist holidaying in Thanet and the South East, day trippers and coach outings. Sadly, since the Airport has been closed the numbers of visitors have declined considerably. A curator of the museum asked a coach driver why the numbers of coaches had declined ....the coach driver said people preferred to visit 'live' airports to watch planes landing and taking off as this brings the museum to life. There is a pub/ restaurant at the end of Manchester Airport's runway, it is always full to overflowing, it has also has a large veiwing garden which is also always full. So many people all over the UK love airports.

So.. those that oppose the Airport, quoting that a large Cargo Hub at Manston would cause the loss of Thanets Tourist and Leisure Industry are completely wrong, people love to watch planes and airports are a big attraction and when the Manston Airport passenger flights begin, they will bring in many tourists who come to see all of Thanet's attractions.

Neither Heathrow nor Gatwick will be able to increase their runway space for many years after Brexit... and the UK will need Manson Airport up and running A.S.A.P.

Manston has an excellent runway, RSP have the money to fulfill their plans for an Airport infrastructure that can deal with UK's increasing freight movements. RSP's Cargo Hub, Passenger Terminal and Aircraft ReCycling Centre, will bring Education/ Training and Inspiration for the young people in Thanet, Dover, Deal, Canterbury, Sheppey, Folkestone, Herne Bay, Medway towns and as far as Bromley, who currently have minimal hope of achieving a decent career in the area in which they live.

On the approval of RSP's DCO plans there would be a minor impact on Ramsgate

and Herne Bay and not the exaggerated hysteria and screams of a "dirty noisy smelly cargo hub" and "will damage children's health" and "interrupt their education" that many of the anti Manston Airport residents would have others, with little experience of the area, believe !

Thanet and the rest of the SE corner of the UK, must not allow the loss of this fantastic and much needed opportunity for Thanet and the UK, for Manston Airport to become a large Freight Hub Airport and a nationally significant Infrastructure, post-Brexit.....just because of a few grumbling NIMBYs, most of whom know very little about Thanet residents and thier love and need for Manston Airport.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Christine Redmond

Tel: 

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