

**From:** [veronica.cox](mailto:veronica.cox)  
**To:** [ManstonAirport@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ManstonAirport@pins.gsi.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** Reopening Manston Airport for commercial purposes  
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I suggest that freight airlines that currently use Gatwick and Heathrow might be persuaded to use Manston instead. This would free up these slots which might then be used for passenger flights.

Maybe then the second runways and use of the emergency runway at Gatwick might not be necessary.

I worked at Manston for 15 consecutive years from 1960 to 1975 and again at various times on shorter contracts. At the time the RAF ran the airport - taking care of airtraffic control, security, meteorology services, communication facilities and fire safety so there is a lot to take into consideration to reopen Manston.

With the exception of pilots the vast majority of staff were local.

We operated both passenger and freight flights. Manston was a health airport giving operators the opportunity to import/export live cargo, time sensitive cargo eg foodstuffs.

It was also an inland clearance depot for TIR lorry traffic and after Brexit there is no reason why this facility may not be used again.

The runway at Manston can accommodate most aircraft currently in use. Of course the vandalism under the ownership of Ann Gloag will have to be restored.

I hope serious consideration will be given to reopening Manston. It is an important asset nationally and was used by the RAF as a major diversion airport for military and civilian aircraft in trouble or needing to divert because of weather problems at their home ports.

Veronica Cox  
Local resident.

Sent from Samsung tablet

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