

On behalf of Greg Shapland at ExA Open Floor Hearing on 18 March 2019

Has the Government said that it wants Manston?

I feel that the question is the 'elephant in the room' for this DCO application.

I don't claim to be an expert on the topic but I haven't seen anything official that mentions the words Manston and freight hub and puts a tick against them.

I understand the applicants to say that doesn't matter. They point instead to the Government's general support for expansion of existing runway capacity

I have a real problem with that, because there isn't any existing runway capacity at Manston. Manston has been closed for some years.

The applicant knows this full well. He actually bases his whole application on acceptance that there is currently zero existing runway capacity at Manston. He says so, in terms, in paragraphs 8 and 9 of his document of July 2018 justifying the application as an NSIP.

It would seem to follow, as the night follows the day, that the application should be treated as proposing new runway capacity.

It is absolutely not a development of existing operational consents.

Therefore it cannot be covered by the general Government support for expanding existing capacity. It just doesn't qualify, or so it seems to anyone reading the words.

The applicant is trying to have it both ways. That sound like cheating to me.

I have a second point that I would quickly like to make.

The Government's June 2018 document on "Making Best Use of Existing Runways" promised that its support for expansion of existing runways is compatible with the UK's climate change commitments. They recently wrote to the Committee on Climate Change saying that UK aviation emissions in 2050 should be around their 2005 level.

I would like to know how a new international cargo hub with capacity of between 25,000 and 80,000 flights a year can possibly be consistent with this ambitious target.

So far as I can tell, the applicant says a lot of his business is new business, not business captured from others.

It is the Government not RSP who answers for international targets on carbon emissions.

So I ask my question again, "DOES THE GOVERNMENT WANT MANSTON"?