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16 MAR 2019



The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol BS1 6PN

For attention of The Examining Authority

Your ref: Manston Airport
Our ref: OGC – RF

15 March 2019

Dear Sirs

Re: Development Consent Order Application by Riveroak Strategic Partners Limited (Riveroak) relating to the proposed reopening of Manston Airport

We refer to the above matter and to the Planning Inspectorate's published agendas dated 11th March relating to a series of hearings in the week commencing 18th March to consider Riveroak's DCO application.

We note in the agendas that the Examining Authority (ExA) has welcomed all Interested Parties to attend the hearings on 18th and 20th March and that, in addition to a general invitation, certain Interested Parties, including the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), have been invited to attend the issue specific hearings on 21st (need and operation) and 22nd March (noise and vibration).

Thank you for inviting the CAA to attend and take part in the hearings. After giving this careful consideration we have respectfully decided not to attend the hearings next week.

We have provided written responses to the Examining Authority's questions (ExA) and have also agreed a detailed Statement of Common Ground with the applicant. As a statutory consultee to Riveroak's application, the CAA has provided input on those aspects of the application which relate to the CAA's regulatory functions.

As set out in the Statement of Common Ground, in order for Manston airport to become operational, Riveroak will require a number of separate approvals from the CAA, including those for aerodrome and air traffic management safety and airspace change. These processes are at an early stage and at present only the airspace change process has been formally initiated. We consider that the SoCG adequately summarises the regulatory processes which Riveroak will have to satisfy in order to make Manston Airport operational.

The CAA does not wish to make any further submissions on the application at this stage but we are happy to consider any further written questions or requests for further information from the ExA or any Interested Parties either before, during or after the hearings. We will endeavour to respond to any such requests within a reasonable timeframe.

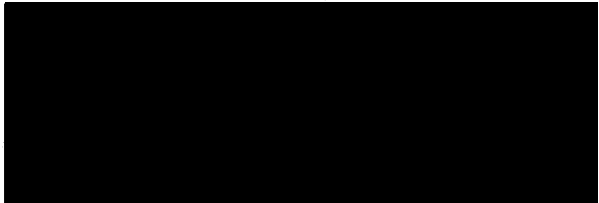
Civil Aviation Authority

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We are also in the latter stages of contingency planning for a possible no-deal Brexit and we are having to make difficult decisions to prioritise our finite resources. Both the responses to ExA's written questions and the SoCG required significant input from across a number of the CAA's areas of regulatory responsibility and engaged a range of subject matter experts, many of whom will be involved in the CAA's contingency planning. It is therefore not feasible for our subject matter experts to attend the hearings in person next week.

We trust the above is satisfactory but please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss.

Yours faithfully



Kate Staples
General Counsel and Secretary
Civil Aviation Authority