

Written Submission by Dr. R. John Pritchard
on SMAa Funding, Accounts and Related Matters

As an elected member of the Committee of Management of the Save Manston Airport Association, I prepared or assisted in the preparation of the Accounts of the Save Manston Airport association between our incorporation and approval of the initial Constitution of the Association at a Special General Meeting in September 2014 and February 2019 when I stood down from the Committee. Throughout that period I held office either as Treasurer or as Vice-Chair of SMAa, elected as such by the Committee. When I was not Treasurer during that period, my wife, Ela Lodge-Pritchard, held the elected office of Treasurer of our association. I have a more complete understanding of SMAa sources of funding and the SMAa accounts across the totality of that whole period than any other person.

I am happy to confirm that at no point in the history of SMA or SMAa since we incorporated ourselves in the summer of 2014, after SuMA and SMA split, have SMAa received any subsidy, grant, loan or any other monies or goods or promises of the same, not even so much as a penny in funding, from RiverOak Investment Corporation, RiverOak Strategic Partners Ltd., any other associated company or entity, nor from any of their directors or consultants.

All have all been aware that had SMAa been funded from those sources that would have been grossly improper: SMAa are a grassroots organisation, not an arm or agent paid or financially supported by any of them. Thus I entirely reject and repudiate scurrilous, malicious and defamatory speculations, allegations and questions which have been put about on social media and to the Examining Authority by those who are opposed to SMAa and RiverOak or to the Airport DCO Application, and so those attacks and innuendoes are answered, authoritatively, here.

The Save Manston Airport association holds two accounts: one is a PayPal account, and its statements of account are carefully checked. The other is a Lloyds Bank Account, and its statements of account are carefully checked, too. Petty cash is accounted for. SMAa's income and expenditure are recorded. Records exist for all of SMAa transactions, detailed manual and electronic accounts are kept, everything is reconciled. SMAa annual accounts have been checked and approved by Committee before being submitted to SMAa AGMs and accepted. That, I feel sure, will continue to be the case in the future as it has been in the past, for the Save Manston Airport association serves its membership on behalf of our community and is accountable to its members, no one else.

It also should be obvious, but can nevertheless be stated unreservedly, that SMAa has never provided any RiverOak entity with any funding although SMAa members will be happy to acknowledge that the Committee gave a bouquet of flowers to Dr Sally Dixon, publicly, at a joint meeting held with the TG Red Arrows Scholarship organisation at Manston Village Hall, as an expression of SMAa's appreciation of her work as a paid consultant of RiverOak.

No personal or corporate gifts, loans, subsidies, retainers or promises of future employment by RiverOak have been made to any members of the SMAa Committee, their spouses, children or grandchildren to the best of my knowledge or belief. SMAa has never employed anyone.

I write these words and submit them to the Examining Authority of the Manston Airport DCO Application with the express written endorsement of Dr. Beau Webber, Chairman of the Save Manston Airport association.

Dr. R. John Pritchard

Dr. Beau Webber (Chairman of SMAa)