

## **TR020002 Manston Airport DCO Application by RSP Ltd**

### **Personal submission for Deadline 9: Tricia Hartley**

I am a Ramsgate resident and registered as an interested party. I have attended several ExA hearings on Manston and have submitted responses to previous sets of questions.

Throughout this process I have been appalled at how the applicant appears to have been unable or unwilling to reveal credible, reliable information on its plans. That a start-up organisation should believe it can run a huge-scale National Infrastructure Project is surprising. That it believes it can obtain land belonging to another body to do so without providing more than a sketchy business plan and a projection of taking over 122% of the existing national cargo market is shocking.

Time and again during the hearings, RSP's assertions were demonstrated by experts to have no foundation. Time and again the ExA has requested information and been met with stonewalling, assertions of commercial confidentiality and insistence that somehow everything will be fine and that the repeated failure of this airport will somehow be turned round this time, if the ExA will only accept the applicant's vague and dubious proposals.

Now, with less than 3 weeks to go to the end of the examination period, we still have no real information about the applicant's sources of funding, its business plan or its industry contacts. Information it has provided on night flights, noise contours, air pollution, damage to the environment and other key issues has proved doubtful, confusing or frankly wrong.

As the ExAs Fourth Written Questions demonstrate, numerous organisations directly affected have received no approach from the applicant or been unable to come to an agreement. This leaves us at this late stage with some 175 pages of written questions from the ExA on matters still unclear or still to be resolved, nearly all of them for the applicant.

Where does this leave the 40,000 residents like me in a town where our quality of life will, by the applicant's own admission, be 'significantly adversely affected' if the DCO is granted?

I believe it leaves us forced to rely on your own expertise and knowledge to reject the application, coupled with the protection offered to us by the Human Rights Act as backup if for some reason you should be minded to grant a DCO.

I understand that if the DCO is granted, the Government must be able to show residents whose right to enjoyment of our homes and lives is compromised were given sufficient information and opportunity to challenge the decision. Your 175 pages of unresolved questions show you have not yourselves had sufficient information even at this late stage. It is clear, therefore, that residents likewise have not had adequate information to allow us to challenge the threat the DCO application poses to our local economy and our quality of life, as so much remains unclear, mysterious and unavailable, and so many of the applicant's original assertions have proved groundless or have changed during the examination. Thus if a DCO were granted I believe we would have clear grounds for appeal under the HRA.

I therefore urge the Examining Authority to reject this nonsensical and spurious application that would destroy our town, damage our economy and shatter the lives of local residents.