

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Manston Airport](#)
Subject: Purchase of Manston Airport
Date: 07 July 2019 21:36:41

Dear sir/madam,

Towards the end of last week it was reported that Riveroak had agreed terms to purchase the site of the failed airport at Manston from the legal owners of the site. No further information was provided. According to one of the local MP's, negotiations had been progressing steadily since the start of the year. I don't think you'd have known this from reading the submissions made to the examination.

According to the press release the company which purchased the site was Riveroak MSE Limited. This company has never published any accounts via Companies House. It was set up with share capital of £1, so it isn't clear where the money has come from to pay for the purchase of the site. The obvious answer is that the money has been provided to Riveroak MSE Limited by Riveroak Strategic Partners.

The applicants provided the examination with up to date accounts for Riveroak MSE Limited shortly after the final hearing. Those accounts, which covered the period to the end of June 2019 showed that the company had no money (I've ignored the odd pound).

Accounts were provided for Riveroak Strategic Partners. These accounts showed that the company had recently received £13 million. Presumably, they borrowed it from the outfit on the Virgin Islands.

Accounts were also provided for another Riveroak company; Riveroak Operations Limited (ROPL). Unless I'm misunderstanding them, these accounts seem to show that ROPL is in debt to the tune of around £13 million.

So, if I'm summarising the situation correctly, Riveroak MSE Limited is buying Manston with money which has been lent to them. The company lending them the money owes that money to a mysterious entity based in the British Virgin Islands. Meanwhile, another Riveroak company owes another £13 million to the same entity in the Virgin Islands.

It's hard to avoid the conclusion that it is the entity in the Virgin Islands which is buying Manston and that Riveroak is just an go-between. Here's my questions. What assurance do you have that the entity in the Virgin Islands wants to reopen an airport? What assurances do you have that further money is available to deliver the plans which have been presented? What assurances do you have that the sources of this money are legitimate and that nobody who is involved in making the decisions about the DCO is invested in the entity in the Virgin Islands?

Kind Regards,

Peter Binding