

From: [REDACTED]
To: transportinfrastructure@dft.gov.uk; [Manston Airport](#)
Subject: Delay to Manston Airport DCO process - TR020002
Date: 27 January 2020 12:47:44

RE: Delay to Manston Airport DCO process-- TR020002

Susan Anderson Head of Transport Infrastructure Planning,
Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 4DR;

The Planning Inspectorate.

Dear Ms. Anderson, Planning Inspectorate,

The **Planning Act 2008** was introduced by the UK government with the intention of reducing the amount of time taken for approving major new infrastructure projects. **Development Consent Orders**, which were introduced within the Act, were intended to simplify and speed up the process of obtaining planning permission for certain types of project, designated as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.

Nationally Significant Infrastructure projects require huge investment. Investors hate uncertainty and the old planning regime enabled projects to be stalled for years through lengthy public enquiries. The clearly defined timetable within the Development Consent Order process should give potential investors more certainty about when decisions will ultimately be made and increase the likelihood of such investment coming forward.

Unfortunately with the combination of Brexit preparations and the General Election a number of Development Consent Order projects were affected with decisions being delayed. Although these delays are regrettable one can understand the reasons behind them.

However, what is not acceptable is for delays to have been caused by the Secretary of State allowing numerous submissions from 5 10 12 that are not only after the end of the examination (9th July 2019) but after the Inspectors had submitted their report to the Secretary of State (18th October). Furthermore, the applicant, RSP, were then expected to respond within a very short time frame.

The examination process enabled all interested parties ample opportunities to make submissions both orally and in writing. 5 10 12 participated fully in the process speaking at hearings and submitting over 10,000 pages during the process. It cannot be argued that they were not given sufficient opportunity to put their case within the 6 month examination phase.

What is not clear is whether 5 10 12 will be given time to respond to the comments made by RSP and/or further submissions by 5 10 12 accepted by the Secretary of State.

All this adds uncertainty to the timing of the process and makes investors jittery. The Queens speech 19th December 2019 made it clear that “My Government will prioritise investment in infrastructure and world-leading science research and skills, in order to unleash productivity and improve daily life for communities across the country.”

Even in advance of the granting of the DCO RiverOak Strategic Partners have been supporting events in the Local Community – we take this as a very hopeful sign of yet more advantages as part of the future of a restored Manston Airport.

SMAa understand that RSP financial support has gone to the following:

- Genevieve Hall – Community Talks in Herne Bay
- Margate Street Festival
- RNLI Junior Fishing Competition Ramsgate
- Birchington Traders Forum – Christmas lights
- Thanet Community Forest School – Tree Planting in public parks

We are also very pleased to hear that after the granting of the DCO, RSP will be consulting on a more formal community support policy.

The Secretary of State needs to end this uncertainty and stop parties from being able to deliberately stall the process through repeated submissions. The alternative is to risk future investment in infrastructure projects which is contrary to the intentions behind the 2008 Act and contrary to government policy. This is damaging both locally and nationally.

Save Manston Airport association.

Committee :

Dr. Beau Webber – Chairman

Liam Coyle – Vice-Chairman

Angela Stevens – Secretary

Margaret Sole - Joint Treasurer

Gregory Nocentini - Joint Treasurer

Bryan Girdler

Gary Dumigan

David Stevens

On behalf of our 3.5k members.