

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps
The Secretary of State for Transport
Department of Transport
Zone 1/18 Great Minister House
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By Email

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30th January 2020

Dear Sir

**Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010
Application by RiverOak Strategic Partners Limited (“the applicant”) for an Order
granting Development Consent for the reopening and development of Manston Airport in
Kent**

Request for comments and further information

I am writing this submission as a parent of two children living under the intended flightpath if the DCO by the applicant is successful. I never put into motion my objection to the application previously as I believed the application by Riveroak wouldn't get anywhere. The company has questionable funding issues as well as no track record of undertaking such a project. In sheer naivety I believed that the negative aspects of the application which outweigh any positives would be clear to see and was shocked to see that it had then progressed this far. The recent request for comment by the Secretary of State on the questions raised has now given me that opportunity and I wish to make my feelings as a resident under the flightpath known.

Firstly, I have two children who are in education one will be starting school [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Both schools are beneath the flightpath and will bear the brunt of noise pollution. There is plenty of scientific studies to show the detrimental impact noise pollution can have on children under flightpaths which affects the children's sleep and success at school. I would like to direct the SOS to the studies undertaken by one of the schools under the flightpath which demonstrated the unacceptable decibels the students were subjected to when 747's were flown over. It is well known that there are a number of underperforming schools in the area due to deprivation and I am concerned that this is another barrier to raising the standards of education in the area. I understand that Riveroak are proposing a noise mitigation fund for schools, however the amounts offered are inadequate and will not help the situation for children who have their sleep disturbed.

In addition, the pollution from particulates is greater under the flightpath which I understand is an area of concern for KCC and Thanet District Council as it has only recently got back within

safe air quality guidelines. An addition of a freight cargo hub will just undo every bit of work to improve the air quality of the residents of Ramsgate.

Thanet has a high proportion of people on incapacity benefits and the area has a high rate of mental health problems. The NHS is under strain as it is and introducing a factor which reduces people's quality of sleep, it will only lead to a higher demand on an already stretched service.

The Government has declared a climate emergency and therefore needs to do all it can to get the UK to net zero by the deadline. In reality this is going to be a hard task to achieve and the pollution from airplanes is one of the biggest factors contributing to CO2 emissions; I am at a loss to see how opening another cargo hub will help the UK reach their target.

Finally, I am concerned that the applicant is not a fit and proper company. The area is in need of significant investment, but all the reports undertaken do not corroborate Riveroak's claims of employment numbers and prosperity. The airport is not located in a good geographical location and any goods flown in will then have to be moved on by road as there isn't the infrastructure for freight transport by rail. Again, this will add increased pressure on the local road network which is already under strain and unable to cope with the local traffic. In addition, it will add yet more CO2 and other pollutants to the local area.

Reading the submissions by Five10Twelve my opinion of Riveroak's application has been confirmed that this is not a good move for the local area and Ramsgate would only suffer if it were to be granted. I would ask that both the Department of Transport and the Secretary of State listen to the substantial evidence submitted and make their decision in light of the climate emergency we find ourselves in- please be on the right side of history.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sara Spark

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