

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps  
The Secretary of State for Transport  
Department for Transport Zone 1/18,  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

31/01/2020

Dear SIR, Mr Shapps; Secretary of State for Transport;

This email is in response to the ministers letter dated 17th January, regarding the speech by the transport minister on the 16th, announcing the SoS' decision to extend the decision outcome of the Manston Airport DCO until May 2020.

I have been involved in the Manston Airport scenario since 2013, as well as thousands of others, rallying around a common cause to get our much needed vital (locally and nationally) airport back and open - to provide the much needed income, employment, opportunity and education our area needs.

Throughout the DCO progress, there have been many meetings, conferences, sessions, open-floor hearings and consultations, with robust and plentiful opportunity for those both NEUTRAL, FOR or AGAINST the project, to partake in discussion and submit evidence to the planning inspectorate.

I must say, the decision to approve late submissions, submitted after the close of the examination, and only published when the SoS announced the decision extension, was one of which me and many others see as a mistake. We feel this will be abused by some, as a means to frustrate the process further. The PINS panel were very strict in their keeping of the timeline, and made it clear that it was a very tight ship! We all but hope that the announcement of the decision comes sooner rather than later.

I understand civil servants were focused on Brexit preparations, as well as the Dec 12th Election - but let's not forget this is a **NSIP**, and with us leaving/having left the EU, this reiterates the importance of our airport and its existence, to trade with Europe and the wider world. The local support is still her, and as strong as it has always been.

Yours Sincerely,  
Gregory