

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Manston Airport](#)  
**Subject:** For the attention of the Manston Airport Case Team  
**Date:** 18 June 2021 16:24:37

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Dear Sirs

I am writing to you following your request for updated information to allow you to consider the case for the re-opening of Manston Airport following the failure of the previous DCO.

The East Kent area remains one of deprivation, even though it is situated in the affluent south-east, a situation which is exacerbated to a major extent by a lack of meaningful employment opportunities and of life opportunities for the young people of the region.

The advent of a working airport at Manston would provide employment for a large number of people from the local area covering a wide spectrum of jobs ranging from entry level low skill openings up to those requiring educational expertise at degree level and above and/or a high level of job related ability and experience. This wide area of employment would provide openings for the local population as well as giving meaningful career opportunities for our talented and deserving young people to aim at.

Manston Airport will primarily be set up to attract the global freight market. Post Brexit, as the UK becomes more distant from traditional European markets, - something highlighted by the Government this week in its publication of reduced European export figure values since 1st January 2021 when compared with 2020 figures - we will need to develop new markets and negotiate agreements on a truly global scale. A new trade agreement is being finalised at the moment with partners in Australia and other Australasian countries.

Negotiations are also being pursued with the United States and many other countries worldwide where mutual market access would be beneficial. There is, therefore, an increased need for air freight capacity to complement that of terrestrial or seaborne trade. Land movement of goods is subject to interruption by the somewhat volatile approach of our erstwhile EU partners especially in France where the government appears to have little control of the movement of goods or the ability or desire to enforce its laws where its own citizens are involved. The recent blockage of the Suez Canal has ably demonstrated the fragility of any reliable trade routes by sea. The backlog of goods caused by this fairly minor incident will have repercussions causing the delay and interruption of trade until the end of the current year.

There is, therefore, an excellent case for an increase in air freight capacity to by pass these problems and ensure the efficient and smooth running of our economy via a reliable transportation process.

River Oak has shown, by its enormous investment to date, that it is prepared to provide a first class, state of the art facility at Manston which will benefit both our import and export trade and remain more fully under the control of the UK.

The advent of cleaner, quieter aircraft, which River Oak want to see in use will also be a real environmental asset and provide a safer option.

Increased rail links and capacity could be provided by the new station currently being constructed adjacent to Manston which would facilitate the speedy onward transmission of goods as well as reducing road traffic.

As local residents we hope that Manston will successfully re-open as an airport and provide an asset to enable the country as a whole to continue its long tradition as a trading nation. In doing so it will provide future opportunities for the young people of this area of East Kent and for the development and prosperity of this long neglected area of the country.

Yours faithfully

Susan and John Hennessy

