

From: Catherine Gardiner <[REDACTED]>

Sent: 09 July 2021 16:39

To: SHAPPS, Grant [REDACTED]

Subject: Manston Cargo Hub

To the Secretary of State for Transport Grant Shapps,

Dear Sir,

I have contacted you previously regarding the request to build a cargo hub at the Manston Airfield in Thanet. I was assuming that you and your department would reject the request as viability was not proven however, this was not the case. A judicial review took place following your department's granting of the request and now we, the local residents, are being asked yet again to submit our reasons for objecting to the airport's opening.

I am not sure if you or any member of your department have actually travelled to this site and its surrounding area. Within 1 mile of the airstrip sits the historic town of Ramsgate. 1 mile further is Broadstairs, then Margate. These three towns are hubs for tourism, in fact we rely on the tourist industry. We have award winning beaches, historic buildings and many wildlife reserves in close proximity to Manston. The air is clean, the beaches are clean, we are a great advertisement for this country's wish to become greener. It is therefore difficult to comprehend why your department are contemplating a request to decimate this idyllic part of the country and its main source of income, particularly when the people behind this proposed cargo hub have dubious business and financial records, have been unable to prove a need for a new cargo hub and cannot show any financial viability. I am sure you and your department are being heavily pressured by our local MPs who, in case you are not aware, have personal relationships with the would be owners of the cargo hub. Please do not walk blindly in to what will become an embarrassment to you and your government should you allow this proposal to go ahead. I am not saying this just as a local resident, I can move. I am saying this as someone who is horrified by a government who purports to be dedicated to a greener world and yet seems hell bent on ruining one of our most beautiful parts of the country and by your apparent blindness to a scheme that is built on a financial house of cards.

I thank you for your time and consideration and urge you to reject the Manston Cargo Hub proposal.

Kind regards,

Catherine Gardiner

Resident of Broadstairs.

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