

Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules  
2010

Re-determination of the Application by RiverOak Strategic Partners Limited ("the Applicant") for an Order granting Development Consent for the reopening and development of Manston Airport in Kent.

CONSULTATION ON THE INDEPENDENT AVIATION ASSESSOR'S DRAFT REPORT AND THE REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED ON  
THE STATEMENT OF MATTERS

Dear Secretary of State

The Independent Aviation Assessor's Draft Report confirms the conclusions of the Examining Authority during its 6 month detailed examination of the case for Riveroak Strategic Partners' application for a DCO in respect of Manston Airport.

The findings of the ExA in turn consolidate and formalize the opinion of almost a dozen Aviation Experts over the last ten years or so.

*There is no need for additional dedicated air cargo capacity, and even if there were, Manston is not the place for it.*

One might consider the circumstances since the ExA recommended not to grant a DCO thus:

**What's Changed (including, but not limited to):**

- Stansted has had approval to expand its operations, and now has spare capacity, including dedicated freight.
- Gatwick Airport has just launched its application to open its northern runway, almost doubling capacity.
- The UK is about to host COP26.

**What's Not Changed (including, but not limited to):**

- The demand for dedicated air freight has not increased.
- Manston is still in the bottom right hand corner of the UK.
- There is still no rail freight (nor, indeed, any rail) connection to the Manston site.
- The site is still more than 30 km from the nearest motorway.
- There is still no connection between the aviation fuel grid and Manston.
- Ramsgate, a town of over 40,000 souls, with a blossoming sea-side hospitality industry, alfresco bars and cafés, is still only a couple of km from the end of the runway.

This spectre has been hanging over the heads of the people of Thanet in general and Ramsgate in particular for 7 years. It is time to make a firm decision.

*Follow the recommendation of the ExA, and decline RSP's application.*

James Chappell