

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Manston Airport](#)
Subject: DCO Manston Airport
Date: 10 November 2021 18:18:31

Re: The 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.

Under the processes of the Planning Act The Secretary of State has invited further comment on
the Draft Report of the Independent Aviation Assessor. I have read the report from Arup and
note;

Section 6

*Overall, the Independent Assessor concludes that there have not been any significant or material
changes to policy or the quantitative need case for the Proposed Development since July 2019
that would lead to different conclusions being reached (compared with the previous ExA
conclusions) with respect to the need for the Manston development.*

This is quite clear. The Independent Assessor has concluded, rightly, that the need for a DCO at
Manston as a PINS has not been established. No doubt there will be some attempt by the
scheme promoters to divert away from the primacy of definitively proving a need. However,
when it comes to nationally significant infrastructure the concept of identifying the actual
demand, was always and, remains the primary justification.

Should the SoS be minded to grant the DCO in the face of the advice by the ExA and now an
independent assessment he will, I feel, be again open to the possibility of further legal
challenge. This will be quite unnecessary as since the commencement of the DCO RiverOak
Strategic Partners Ltd have acquired virtually all the land they identified as being requisite to
fulfil their operation aspirations and the development can proceed as a local matter and puts
Manston on a equal footing with all other UK airports.

I trust that the SoS will accept the findings of the independent assessor and conclude that the
use of the provision for nationally significant infrastructure as afforded by the 2008 Act is
inappropriate and that the DCO should not be granted.

Yours sincerely,
Mark Heverin CMILT

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