

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Manston Airport](#)  
**Subject:** Case 20013001 Manston Airport  
**Date:** 25 November 2021 09:38:15

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Dear Sir or Madam

I made my initial response to the Secretary of State regarding the development of Manston Airport in January 2020 and would now like to respond to the aviation assessors draft report of the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2021. The ARUP report basically concluded that there had been no significant changes that would lead to a different conclusion, that was reached in the 2019 EXA report on Manston's viability. This I strongly refute for the following reasons:

1. Since then the UK has left the EU and there has been many issues regarding road freight entering and leaving the UK, to and from the EU. In the Daily Telegraph dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November it reports that in April 2020 new EU rules will require HGV drivers and tourists to leave their vehicles for ID checks, causing further delays and traffic chaos according to the Port of Dover. This will no doubt prompt importers to turn increasingly to air freight to avoid these ongoing road freight delays.
2. Since the 2019 report work has started on the new Ebbsfleet parkway station, which is now near completion. This will be a boon for Manston airport when passenger flights resume due to the proximity of the station, being only a mile from the airport.

Also being a train driver I know how it would be perfectly feasible to construct a spur into Manston to accommodate freight going directly from air freighter to rail trucks. Rail freight is increasing in the UK and these opportunities must not be missed.

Finally Air freight is growing worldwide due to the problems and cost of shipping, mainly from Asia. These problems were exposed by the huge cargo ship blocking the Suez Canal, the delays at ports and the massive increase in container shipping charges. Again I will draw your attention to a report in the Sunday Telegraph dated the 21<sup>st</sup> of November with the headline 'Air Freight takes off as global supply chain problems bite'. The article reports on the growing airfreight

business with plane makers signing deals worth tens of millions of dollars for cargo versions of their aircraft. Willie Walsh the director-general of the international air transport association says 'The sector is experiencing a permanent shift to air cargo'

With these changes since the initial report it is vital for Manston to re-open and take the wonderful opportunities available in the new era of Worldwide trade which is vital to Britain's future and wealth. I was born in Ramsgate and know firsthand how desperately we need Manston to open for the future of the people of East Kent.

Regards Gary Easton

