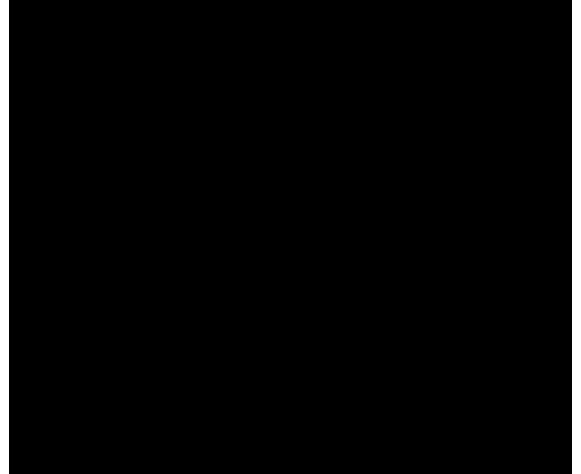


To:  
Natasha Kopala  
Head of Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London, SW1P 4DR

*Mr. T. Austin,*



Dear Natasha Kopala

I have been a Thanet resident for 14 years and have read the conclusions in the need case for development at Manston airport in the draft report by the highly respected consultant Arups and am pleased that they concur with the findings of the original ExA report.

We are in a climate crisis. We should not be approving schemes that put more fossil fuel into the atmosphere by developing an unnecessary air freight hub.

Last December, the government's own advisers on the climate change committee said there should be no net expansion of UK airport capacity "unless the sector is on track to sufficiently outperform its net emissions". This means there should be no air freight hub at Manston.

In mid-July the government published its plan to decarbonise the transport system, which is the country's biggest source of carbon emissions. This included eliminating the aviation's sector carbon footprint as part of the UK's goal of becoming a net-zero nation by 2050.

Of course, it is not just the planes but also HGVs serving the airport that will add to carbon emissions and air pollution. Not to mention noise pollution as well. Residents of Thanet voted overwhelmingly against night flights (73% voted against) in a high-response public consultation held by the Council on night flights in 2012. I am aware that the proposals of RSP said that there would no night flights except in situations where planes are delayed. However, I believe that over time night flights would be a regular occurrence, as the operation would not be viable otherwise.

Finally, I now hope that the outrageous decision by The Secretary of State to reverse the decision of the ExA without any reason will now be dropped and the freight hub proposals finally scrapped.

Kind regards,

Thomas Austin