

Mrs M Simpson

2nd Dec 2021

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

EXTENSION TO THE DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES - CONSULTATION ON THE INDEPENDENT AVIATION ASSESSOR'S DRAFT REPORT AND THE REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED ON THE STATEMENT OF MATTERS

The draft Arup Report for the SoS is unworthy of consideration for it primarily reiterates out of date, previously discredited reports and blindingly misses out on the current state of play for air cargo needs in the UK as a whole

We have container ships diverting from the UK because the ports are jammed with containers and are having to offload in the likes of Dutch ports. The French are suggesting the dropping of the Le Touquet Agreement which if the case could lead to problems with cross-channel traffic, especially cargo and containers being moved by road to the UK, including air cargo received at Ostend airport for forwarding to the UK. That latter business would be landed at Manston if the carriers had their choice.

We already have the main part an airport: a military grade extra-wide, very long runway capable of hosting the NASA space shuttle (had it needed to divert in the past), Concorde, Jumbo jets, Antonov An-124s, etc, etc

I have lived in Ramsgate all my life and have worked under the flightpath for most of that period. Aircraft noise was never an issue and still wouldn't be if the airport was operational again.

There is a huge need in this area for employment opportunities and an operational functioning airport is crucial to the future of our surrounding towns and villages and those who live in them.

Cargo to the door isn't an opportunity to miss out on and that is what Manston will bring to us all in Kent and neighbouring counties. It would exist symbiotically with the likes of the port of Dover and Eurotunnel supported by the excellent road system to its door and a mainline railway nearby.

£330m+ of private investment is not to be laughed at let alone refused. The people of Thanet will never get this chance again!

Please SoS do the right thing and set the ball rolling properly this time.

Yours faithfully

Marlene Simpson