

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Manston Airport](#)
Subject: Representations against the reopening of Manston Airport
Date: 03 December 2021 10:12:55

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to RiverOak's application for development consent to reopen Manston Airport in Kent.

Past experience has established, beyond any reasonable doubt, that the extremely peripheral location of Manston Airport, combined with the abundance of available capacity for passenger and freight air transport elsewhere in the UK, mean that Manston is not and will never be commercially viable.

As evidence supporting this, I will cite the 16 years of unsuccessful attempts by various owners to turn a profit from this platform. Its non-viability has also been thoroughly documented in the Avia and Falcon reports, among others.

In a desperate attempt to pretend otherwise, RSP and its very vocal but deluded local supporters argue that if the cargo hub operated 24 hours a day, with a staggering number of aircraft movement that would make life miserable in Ramsgate and Herne Bay alike, then it would certainly be profitable. They also grossly overestimate the impact on employment in the area, going on and on about the deprivation in Thanet, etc., when in reality Manston has never contributed more than 150 jobs or so, and a cargo hub would likely bring even fewer positions, as logistics relies increasingly on automation.

In contrast, Thanet has been attracting more and more tourists, thanks to some regeneration efforts and its natural assets, whose attractiveness would be seriously called into question if large cargo aircraft started flying over the centre of Ramsgate every ten minutes or so.

Moreover, in the midst of growing concern over climate change and CO2 emissions, it would definitely send the wrong signal to favour the least environment-friendly way of bringing in goods, most of which could in all likelihood be sourced locally, and whose onward journey would require a massive increase in lorry traffic, if we are to believe RSP's fantastic forecasts in terms of freight volumes.

Therefore, we earnestly call upon your Department to reject RSP's application, on the grounds that it does not serve public interest.

Yours sincerely,
Liliane Horri