
From: R. John Pritchard [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 July 2022 08:31
To: SHAPPS, Grant [REDACTED]
Subject: Manston Airport - Urgent (Immediate & Personal)

Dear Secretary of State,

I can only sense the turmoil you must feel and the conditions in which you find yourself at present.

Please find time to finally sign off the Manston Airport DCO. I know that you may have been advised that due to your support for this project years ago, you should enable another minister to do that on your behalf. I believe that to be wrong in law as well as in fact. Specifically, the Planning Act 2008, even as amended, is crystal clear: ONLY the relevant Secretary of State may consent a DCO. It makes absolutely no provision for doing otherwise, and I believe it would be judicially reviewable if you as Secretary of State declined to do it personally but seconded it to another. If it was the intention of Parliament to allow secondment, the Parliament would have legislated accordingly. We are the United Kingdom, not a subsidiary part of the European Union.

If Ministers cannot exercise their own judgment and discretion on matters that they are expert upon and on which they have campaigned, then what in the hell is the use of fitting round pegs into round holes and square pegs into square holes. We don't pick Chancellors who know nothing about business or the City. We have frequently had Defence Ministers who had military careers within some single branch of HM Armed Forces. In the past, we have had outstanding Secretaries of State for Health who were medical doctor, and Secretaries of State for Education who had been teachers or academics. Our system is better for that.

Yours sincerely, and good luck!

Dr. R. John Pritchard
[REDACTED]

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Formerly Vice-Chair, Save Manston Airport Association

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