

From: JEREMY SCARLETT [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 05 August 2022 09:39 AM
To: MCCARTNEY, Karl [REDACTED]
Subject: Manston Airport DCO Redetermination Delay.

Dear Mr. McCartney,

Re: Manston Airport DCO Redetermination Delay.

I understand that there has been yet further delay on the decision on Manston airport, recently added to your brief.

The back story, in brief, is as follows: the original DCO consent was issued six months late on 9th July 2020. After a judicial review begun by a local group of protesters, the DCO was then quashed by the High Court in February 2021 on the grounds that the SoS had “failed to give adequate and intelligible reasons for his decision.” A further seventeen months have gone by and still there is no sign of a decision.

I (as well as other members of South Thanet CA) were of the understanding that all questions had been answered and all outstanding matters resolved. Why the further delay?

I had sight very recently of a letter, from the Department for Transport, which seemed to be making excuses for the further delay, rather than explaining how the delay would be ending immediately, which is what we had all rather hoped to be reading.

We are aware that one of the world’s leading cargo operators is keenly interested in involvement, as also is a sovereign wealth fund (having some 3\$Tn of capital reserves) which is waiting to invest £500 million on the project. These investors will not wait forever. To lose such investment (while claiming to be the party of ‘levelling up’) would be absolutely catastrophic, for all sorts of very obvious reasons, which I am certain I do not need to explain.

As a local association officer, I am acutely aware of the critical importance of this piece of infrastructure to the economic future of Kent, East Kent in particular and also to the UK as a whole. The officers across both Thanet constituency associations are of one mind on this matter, as is, we have sound reason to believe, the vast majority of the local electorate.

Manston airport has one of the longest runways in the country. It is also the closest UK airport to continental Europe, with excellent road, rail and river Thames connections to the London market. Freight operators and cargo carriers are approaching as I type.

In a post-Brexit world, the case for Manston, with its cargo reach to all corners of the globe, is overwhelming, while the objections were always threadbare and have already been, I believed, overruled or dismissed.

We are all very concerned by the further delay.

The investors are waiting. They should not be kept waiting a moment longer.

Please call if you would like to. [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Jeremy Scarlett.

Deputy Chairman Membership and Finance.

South Thanet CA.

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