

From: [Tricia Austin](#)
To: [Manston Airport](#)
Subject: Manston Airport: Non-material change consultation
Date: 25 August 2023 22:39:28

FAO Planning Inspectorate

As a registered Interested Party, I'm writing to express my strong objection to RSP Ltd's proposal (3.1.1) to reduce their security figure (Article 9(1)(a)) to £6.2 million from the original amount of £13.1 million, on the basis that the company has already bought the main airport site.

I believe there are several problems with this proposal, including:

- 1) the fact that prices, including land values and all the costs associated with the noise mitigation arrangements required under the DCO, have gone up considerably since the original figures were agreed, making this a very bad time to consider reducing the security figures from those agreed;
- 2) the fact that the company originally valued the main airport site at half the amount they eventually paid for it, suggesting they may have undervalued the other land they will need to compulsorily purchase too.

As a Thanet District Councillor in Ramsgate, I am particularly concerned:

- 1) about the potential impact on TDC, as owner of some of the land which will need to be CPOd, if RSP Ltd end up having insufficient funds to pay the going rate for the land. Local Authorities across the country are severely overstretched at present, and TDC is no exception. If the DCO was approved but RSP did not have enough in reserve to pay landowners the full current value of their land, this would have a severe negative effect on this area;
- 2) that if RSP find themselves in financial difficulties (which is being suggested locally as a possible reason behind their attempt to reduce the security amount) they may also seek to reduce the figures they plan to offer for noise mitigation, although every penny of this and more will be needed to reduce the acknowledged negative impact of the proposed cargo hub on the residents of Ramsgate.

I am also concerned to hear from other Interested Parties that most did not hear about this consultation until it had already been open for more than a week. This is worrying. We are ordinary people trying to oppose a company owned by shadowy offshore interests, and supported by Government Ministers, which is determined to force through proposals that even they recognise will be severely detrimental to our town. We should at least have every opportunity to make our views heard at every stage of this exceedingly lengthy and painful process.

Regards
Tricia Austin

Ramsgate resident; Central Harbour ward Councillor