

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Manston Airport](#)
Subject: Manston Airport DCO Request for changes to the DCO
Date: 02 September 2026 08:38:27

Having read the responses from the MoD which were recently made public, I am again writing to formally lodge my strong objection to the applications made by **RiverOak Strategic Partners (RSP)** seeking non-material changes to the **Manston Airport Development Consent Order (DCO)**. Specifically, I object to their requests for a two-year extension to the construction commencement deadline and the removal of the requirement to re-site the Ministry of Defence's (MoD) High-Resolution Direction Finder (HRDF).

The stated justification provided by RSP for requesting this time extension—attributing the delay purely to lost time from historical judicial review proceedings—is false and misleads the Department. Recent clarity and responses from the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** establish that the critical path delaying onsite construction is entirely a result of RSP's own prolonged inaction regarding the HRDF mitigation scheme.

Under the terms of the DCO, a decommissioning and removal programme for the HRDF must be finalised and agreed upon before any heavy machinery or development can commence. This requirement has been known and documented for many years now having been discussed during the original examination of the DCO. It was a condition of the original DCO prior to the Judicial Review. Despite these long-standing conditions, RSP has failed to make substantial or meaningful progress on resolving this technical safety safeguard. Their attempt to retroactively amend the DCO to completely scrap the requirement to re-site the MoD infrastructure—claiming the system is unneeded or inoperative—appears to be a convenient pivot to mask their own failure to deliver an agreed mitigation scheme.

Because the true cause of the project's stagnation is RSP's internal stagnation and inaction rather than external legal gridlock, the core grounds for their extension request are invalid.

Allowing a further two-year extension would reward regulatory negligence and prolong uncertainty for the local community. I therefore urge the Department to reject the extension request and hold the developer strictly accountable to the timelines and safety obligations mandated in the original order.

Please confirm receipt of this email and confirm it will be considered by the Minister when making their decision.

Adem Mehmet