

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 June 2026 16:50
To: Manston Airport <ManstonAirport@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Manston Airport Development Consent Order 2022 - Two non-material changes

Further to my earlier response regarding the request for changes to the DCO with regard to the MoD HRDF facility at Manston, I attach a response from the MoD to an FOI request which confirms that an HRDF facility in the Southeast is still required. On this basis there is no need or reason to change the current HRDF obligation and the requested change should therefore be denied.

[REDACTED]



Ministry of Defence

Air Policy Secretariat
Spitfire Block
Headquarters Air Command
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
[REDACTED]

30 June 2026

Ref. FOI2026/11020

[REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence of 1 June 2026 in which you request the following information:

"Following my last FOI, RiverOak have no formally asked to amend the DCO on the basis that the HRDF is no longer required by the MoD. They state that there was a power issue with the HRDF in 2024 such that no power was going to the HRDF but despite that, the MoD have not contacted them to see what's happened. Below is an extract from their request.

"During examination of the Manston Airport DCO application, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation made various submissions about the importance of the High Resolution Direction Finder (HRDF), including that it forms part of a national and civilian capability which is vital to the ability to respond to air emergencies.

Since the making of the Manston Airport DCO, a fault with the power supply to the HRDF was reported to RiverOak in April 2024. Since that time, neither the Defence Infrastructure Organisation nor the Ministry of Defence has been in touch with RiverOak to arrange for access to the site to rectify the issue and so the HRDF does not appear to have been working for at least two years.

RiverOak therefore considers that the requirement to agree a mitigation scheme with the Ministry of Defence for the provision of an alternate HRDF may be unnecessary.

The Applicant has instead included an 'either/or' provision allowing the Ministry of Defence to confirm that an alternate HRDF is not required."

Can you please confirm whether;

- 1 RiverOak advised you in 2024 that there was an issue with the power supply.*
- 2 Whether or not the HRDF sited at Manston is still required and will need to be moved to an agreed site or can be decommissioned."*

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Question 1:

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not hold any information in scope of this part of your request.

Question 2:

We can confirm that the MOD continues to require High-Resolution Direction Finding (HRDF) capability in the Southeast to support flight safety for both Civil and Military flying.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, [REDACTED] (e-mail [REDACTED]). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, [REDACTED]. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,

Air Policy Secretariat