

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London, SW1P 4DR

e-mail: transportinfrastructure@dft.gov.uk
Web: www.gov.uk/dft

To:
The Applicant
Ministry of Defence

11 August 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Changes to, and Revocation of, Development Consent Orders) Regulations 2011

Application by River Oak Strategic Partners Ltd (“the Applicant”) seeking non-material changes to the Manston Airport Development Consent Order 2022 (as amended by the Manston Airport Development Consent (Amendment) Order 2023)

Request for comments from the Applicant and the parties listed above

I refer to the application made by River Oak Strategic Partners Ltd for changes to the Manston Airport Development Consent Order. The deadline for representations on the non-material change proposals formally ended on 5 July 2026. However, in the Secretary of State’s consultation letter of [10 July 2026](#), additional time was provided to 31 July 2026 to ensure that parties who received late notification of the proposals were afforded an appropriate time to respond. All responses received have now been published [here](#).

Materiality of requested changes

1. It is noted that paragraph 4 (c) of the [Supporting Statement](#) advises that the proposed changes do not give rise to any new environmental effects, impacts on local people nor would they require an updated Habitats Regulations Assessment or new species licence. This would include the change amending the time limit for commencing the authorised development.

The Applicant is requested to provide details of how this conclusion was reached and to provide evidence to support the statements made at each of the sub-paragraphs at 4 (c) of the Supporting Statement; demonstrating that extending the commencement period would not give rise to any new or materially different environmental effects from those previously assessed.

High-Resolution Direction Finder (HRDF)

2. It is noted the Applicant proposes to amend the wording of requirement 24 in relation to providing alternate High-Resolution Direction Finding (HRDF) equipment, so as to provide flexibility in circumstances where the HRDF may no longer be required. Noting the response of the [Ministry of Defence](#) of 2 July 2026, **the Applicant and Ministry of Defence** are invited to reach an agreement on whether the proposed change to the requirement wording in relation to the HRDF, is still required as part of this application.

Deadline for Response

The deadline for response is **25 August 2026**.

Submissions sent by post may be subject to delay therefore your response on the information requested above should be submitted by email to ManstonAirport@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

If you will have difficulty in submitting a response by the deadline, or difficulty in submitting a response by email, please inform the Planning Inspectorate.

Responses will be published as soon as possible after the deadline on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website at: [Manston Airport - Project information](#)

This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's decision on the Application, and nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what that decision might be.

Yours faithfully,

Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit