

[REDACTED]

Manston Airport <ManstonAirport@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

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To whom it may concern

I wish to express my strong objection to the request by Manston airport owner RiverOak Strategic Partners (RSP) for two changes to the Development Consent Order granted in 2022.

The first request is for a two year extension to the start of development work. The order has been in place for four years; RSP have stated on numerous occasions that they have the required funding so as far as I can tell, the only reason why the work hasn't started is because they have chosen not to. They claim they were unable to progress due to "uncertainty" but again, this was their choice and legal processes should not be used as an excuse for inaction. It seems totally illogical to do nothing for four years and ask for more time. Granting this extension will only reward their failure to meet the agreed timeline.

Secondly, RSP want to remove the need to find, agree and trial an alternate High Resolution Direction Finder (HRDF) site for two years before removing it. Their reason is fanciful claiming that because nobody has asked them to go onto their site and repair a cable, it cannot be that important. There is no substantive evidence to back up this claim and the military is famously secretive about operational matters. Once again, RSP have identified an issue that they have known about for some time yet done nothing about. Given the fact that they weren't building anything, they could have conceivably contacted the RAF (?) and asked for an update. Knowing about an issue but ignoring it is unacceptable as is the somewhat patronising view that RSP know more about the HRDF than the air force.

I suppose my objections can be summed up by the phrase "shocking arrogance" and as such, I urge you to deny the request and insist RSP honour the agreement that they happily signed in 2022.

Iain Gilmour

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