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Good afternoon.

I am making representation to object to RSP being granted the material changes they are now seeking, one of which I understand to be a two year extension to the development consent order.

Note the following points

- Manston's record is one of constant failure and financial loss. RSP has at its helm an individual closely associated with these multiple failures, and to date there is no evidence to suggest the finances necessary for the project would ever materialise.
- The report by Ove Arup makes clear (as has many other such examinations) that the case for Manston fails in almost every respect, the need is simply not there. To judge otherwise flies in the face of the huge weight of evidence and the considered findings presented by industry leading bodies in each report. I Understand the planning inspectorate were of the same opinion, however was overruled by a Conservative transport secretary.
- In recent years several major cargo and airport operators alike have made huge investments into their operations; thereby ensuring the UK's principle air hubs (geographically located much more strategically than Manston) continue to meet the demands of the air cargo industry now and well into the future. I dare say that another two years will see Manston's viability fall further behind.
- RSP's proposals are at best fanciful and appear to be reliant on a very different aviation/air cargo landscape than the one we see today. Going forward AI will no doubt play a significant part in the automation of such facilities , putting in doubt RSP's job number claims

- “Levelling Up” has been a recent and often used refrain from the Government; permitting the reopening of Manston as a 24/7 Air Cargo operation would do exactly the opposite. By granting an extension, Ramsagte and the surrounding environs will be in limbo with the added impact on farmland being taken up for much needed housing, as is happening right now, instead of putting all the development into one disused airfield.
- It would cause serious harm to the burgeoning economies of Thanet’s coastal towns and inflict untold damage on the health and wellbeing of its residents; ecological sites are sure to be impacted also.
- In closing I urge the Secretary of State for Transport to end this interminable process, think of the future and note the “levelling up” that is happening organically through Thanet’s coastal attraction offering. Yes Manston does have a future but not as an cargo air hub, but surely one more akin to the former proposal of Stone Hill Park Ltd which considered a mixed range of housing (desperately needed in Thanet) modern light/green industries and leisure.

Yours Sincerely

Mario Portelli