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Sent: 31 March 2019 18:34
To: Manston Airport <ManstonAirport@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Manston Airport

I appreciate that this submission is very late but since it highlights an underlying issue affecting this area I think it important that I make you aware.

For some weeks now I have been troubled by a developing minor medical condition; one not serious enough to warrant a journey to A&E. However on Thursday 28th March I decided that I no longer wanted to live with the pain and so phoned my GP surgery (in Ramsgate) for an appointment. The receptionist was very apologetic but said that the doctors had not released any appointment slots for her to fill; she went on to explain that they were currently running four doctors short. She made me an appointment with Thanet's equivalent of a GP Unit at the QEQM.

I went to this appointment yesterday, 30th March. I mentioned the shortage of GPs to the doctor there who told me that four short was by no means the worst situation in Thanet and that every surgery was reporting similar problems. As a consequence the QEQM had established this clinic in order to try and maintain service for residents. He went on to say that GPs didn't seem to want to set up practice in Thanet; the area is perceived as high on deprivation and low on opportunity and highly qualified medical practitioners are not being attracted to the area. This confirms what the spokesperson for the Joint Committee of Clinical Commissioning Groups stated on 14th February when she said (referring to the decision not to place a hyper acute stroke unit at QEQM) that they had difficulties recruiting staff for this area.

Thanet doesn't deserve this reputation but until it is seen as an area of opportunity rather than an arid desert of deprivation it will not improve. For that reason I feel that rather than swamp the area with more housing that locals can't afford we should take serious steps to improve the employment prospects for residents; an airport would go a long way towards revitalising the area and help it take its place as a full contributor to UK PLC.

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