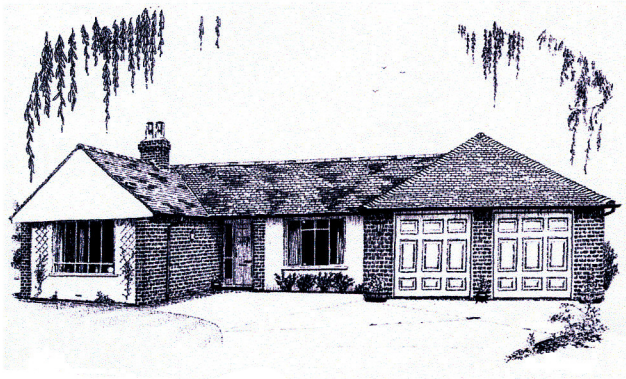


From: [REDACTED]
To: [Manston Airport](#)
Subject: For the attention of the Manston Airport Case Team
Date: 19 June 2021 14:34:47

Please refer to my letter attached - Geoffrey R. Illsley



Tel: [REDACTED]
e-mail: [REDACTED]

Manston Airport Case Team
Ministry of Transport
Houses of Parliament,
London,
SW1A 0AA

19th June, 2021

Dear Team,

Re-opening of Manston Airport, Kent.

The reopening of Manston Airport in East Kent has never been more urgently needed as a matter of national importance.

1. It will be vital for our post Brexit survival for goods, food, raw materials, and in light of the current crisis, pharmaceuticals to have unrestricted access **from and to** this country without any need to touch down in EU "Bureaucracy Land".
2. Manston already has the fourth longest and by far the widest and strongest runway in the UK. After improvements in the Cold War - it was chosen as the European diversion airfield for the 747/Space Shuttle combination and heavy lift centre for squadrons of C5 Galaxy cargo aircraft with main battle tanks in case of a Soviet breakthrough. What a pedigree for a perfect freight hub. Millions do not need to be spent creating an island in the Thames – this golden asset already exists!
3. Before it was sabotaged by the self serving Ann Gloag for housing speculation, Manston had a growing international reputation for spectacular fast aircraft turn round for perishables and food handling, humanitarian missions, and specialist equestrian cargos. All still needed. Before Covid, "Heath-Wick-Stead" was already saturated, and big cargo aircraft had problems finding slots owing to maxed out passenger movements. Air space around Manston is generously "available".
4. East Kent is a national unemployment blackspot. Whenever a new airport has been created from former RAF bases spin off has created jobs and prosperity for the surrounding region. We desperately need this, including technical training and aircraft disassembly centres which Manston had just started before it was closed down.
5. The new Manston Airport is already fully funded. It is frankly astonishing that RiverOak have had the patience to persevere in the face of every conceivable handicap thrown in its way by a small minority of vociferous "antis" who have exploited the democratic process in the face of **widespread** local and regional support for the restoration of a state of the art airfield that will be carbon neutral and will attract global business. Government cannot surely look such a gift horse in the mouth, and must proceed to allow the DCO in the **national interest**.

