

AM Bates

2nd Dec 2021

Dear Sirs

Re-determination of the Application by RiverOak Strategic Partners Limited for an Order granting Development Consent for the reopening and development of Manston Airport in Kent.

EXTENSION TO THE DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES - CONSULTATION ON THE INDEPENDENT AVIATION ASSESSOR'S DRAFT REPORT AND THE REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED ON THE STATEMENT OF MATTERS

I totally support the DCO application that RiverOak Strategic Partners (RSP) have made and refute much of the content of the Arup report which only reiterates previously discredited ones by other parties. It doesn't take into account recent changes in the world such as what the Covid pandemic has created and how goods are shipped around the world. We as a country need to diversify goods handling operations and that includes making sure there are more options for air cargo facilities across the UK and not just at existing passenger ones.

In the past when Heathrow and Gatwick were fog-bound, Manston being fog-free would become the diversionary airport of choice for many of those flights with many BA aircraft, for example, lined up on the tarmac.

I hope that the Secretary of State upholds the DCO application which I am fully in support of and that the local area opens its arms to the huge private investment which has been lined up to be ploughed into it beyond what has been spent to date by the current owners.

Airports attract businesses and job opportunities: we need both here in Thanet and to get the existing facility operational again will not take long to do. Plus the transport links from there to other parts of the country, etc already exist!

Yours sincerely

AM Bates