

From:



Subject:

The Arup report still has not yet been published - another major delay in the Manston Airport DCO Process.

Date:

12 September 2021 19:16:16

For the Attention of
Messrs Grant Shapps, Rt Hon MP
and
Andrew Stephenson, MP.
The Department for Transport (DfT),
Great Minster House,
33 Horseferry Road,
London SW1P 4DR
cc. Sir Roger Gale MP.

Dear Grant Shapps,

On behalf of over 3,700 members of the Save Manston Airport Association (SMAa) we would like to express our disappointment at the length of time being taken to redetermine the DCO for Manston Airport.

According to the Planning Inspectorate website: *"The Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) process was introduced to streamline the decision-making process for major infrastructure projects, making it fairer and faster for communities and applicants alike"*. The process included prescribed deadlines so that all parties would know that once a project was accepted for examination and the preliminary meeting held, the decision would be made a year later. (6 months Examination, 3 months to write the report and make recommendation and 3 months for the Secretary of State (SoS) to make a decision).

The Manston DCO was accepted for Examination on 14th August 2018 but for some reason the preliminary meeting did not occur until 9th January 2019 marking the start of the Examination. It is now 14th September 2021, 37 months since the project was accepted for examination and 32 months since the start of the examination.

Unfortunately, the original granting of the DCO was quashed (15th February 2021) on the grounds that the SoS failed to give "adequate and intelligible reasons" for his decision. This has inevitably led to a delay, but it is hard to understand why 9 months after the SoS conceded that insufficient reasons had been given and 7 months after the court order was issued **the Arup report still has not yet been published.**

The SoS made it clear in his letter of 30th July 2021 that there will be a further period of consultation so even when the Arup report is published there is likely to be at least 8 weeks before a decision is made. This will mean that instead of taking 1 year it will be 3 years from the start of the examination to the final decision being made.

The government needs to be aware that delays of this kind must undermine the credibility of the DCO Process and seriously reduce the likelihood that investors will commit themselves to major infrastructure projects in the UK in the future. It is astonishing that the investors for the Manston DCO have stuck with the project through all of this, but it does illustrate how much they believe in it.

The Committee of Save Manston Airport association,

On behalf of our 3,700 members :

- **Dr Beau Webber (Chairman)**
- **David Stevens (Vice-chair)**

Liam Coyle (Vice-chair/Chief Moderator)

- **Angela Stevens (Secretary)**
- **Gregory Nocentini (Treasurer/IT)**
- **Margaret Sole (Treasurer)**

Ex-officio members

- **Bryan Girdler**
- **Gary Dumigan**

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