



Department
for Transport

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Rachel Maclean MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: rachel.maclean@dft.gov.uk
Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

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Department for Transport – Government Preparations for the End of the Transition Period with the European Union

Manston Airport

Dear Resident,

I am writing to update you on the latest developments concerning the potential use of Manston Airport as part of the Government's preparations for the end of the European Union (EU) Transition Period.

On 31 December 2020, the EU Transition Period will end and there will be a range of changes and opportunities for which business and the Government are already preparing. For an initial period, there is a risk of some delays to transport at the border and therefore, as a responsible Government, we are working to provide the infrastructure needed and to ensure that traders and the road haulage sector are ready. Since 2015, Manston Airport has been a key site in our plans to manage cross-Channel disruption and keep Kent moving, forming a contingency measure for cross-Channel disruption until the end of December 2020.

We are now looking into extending our use of the site for a further six months until the end of June 2021. The site would primarily be used for the holding of Heavy Good Vehicles (HGVs) on a temporary basis heading to Europe via the Port of Dover as part of Kent traffic management measures, should it be required in the event of disruption.

Please be assured that, before any use of Manston Airport by the Department at the end of Transition Period, we will write to you again inviting your feedback on the detailed proposals for use of the site. We will also be carrying out studies of the effects of the proposals on traffic and on the environment, and shall keep the local authority, Thanet Council, informed of our preparations.

Approval for our use of the-site would be sought under the requirements of a Special Development Order (SDO), The Town and Country Planning (Border Facilities and Infrastructure) (EU Exit) (England) Special Development Order 2020. As part of this

process, my department would prepare a stakeholder engagement report recording the views of those who provide feedback.

Any further updates will be relayed as soon as possible.

These proposals have been agreed with RiverOak Strategic Partners as the owners of the airport and are not intended to delay the reopening of the airport.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RM', followed by a period.

RACHEL MACLEAN

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT