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for Transport

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Dear Helen,

Thank you for your letter of 9 March 2016, about progress on Operation Stack ahead of summer 2016.

As you will know, working closely with key parties we have found a viable short-term solution (in Manston Airfield) to the disruption residents and industry in the M20 corridor from Dover to Maidstone have been experiencing as a result of Operation Stack. Manston is ready to be used as part of Operation Stack if required.

However, I must stress that the use of Manston Airfield is a short-term measure to relieve pressure on the M20 corridor. We will continue to work with key stakeholders and local partners on developing a range of short to long term solutions.

As you are aware, Highways England launched their public consultation on the long term solution to Operation Stack on 11 December 2015 and this consultation closed on 26 January 2016. I understand that over 1,200 consultation responses were received. Highways England are now analysing the consultation responses and we expect them to provide a report to DfT shortly.

Yours,

Andrew

ANDREW JONES