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Dear Helen,

**Operation Stack: temporary planning permission for use of Manston
Airfield**

I am writing to inform you of the Government's plan to extend the duration of temporary planning permission for the use of Manston Airfield to support Operation Stack.

As you know, as a short term measure, the Department for Transport reached agreement with the owners of Manston Airfield last summer to use the site as part of Operation Stack. This enables Kent Police, Highways England and Kent County Council to use Manston, if necessary, to queue lorries bound for the Port of Dover in the event that Operation Stack is activated.

I am now in the process of extending the temporary planning permission to use Manston Airfield as part of Operation Stack until 31 December 2017.

I can assure you, however, that work on the long term solution that would remove the need for contingency arrangements at Manston is progressing at pace. The Chancellor announced in his Spending Review and Autumn Statement in November 2015 that the Government would be -

"...providing up to £250 million for a major new permanent lorry park to increase resilience in Kent, by taking pressure off the roads in the event of Operation Stack."

Since then Highways England has consulted on options for a new lorry park and is now finalising its advice having analysed the responses received during consultation. I expect Highways England to report to me shortly. This project is being delivered as quickly as it can be given the scale of the works involved. Highways England is planning a phased delivery, with stages of the delivery going live on completion, and with spaces available for Summer 2017.

Yours,

Andrew

ANDREW JONES MP