



██████████,
Chief Executive - Civil Aviation Authority

Contact: Mayor ██████████
Email: ██████████

Sent via e-mail - ██████████

Date: 13th December 2022

Re) Doncaster Sheffield Airport (“DSA”) Airspace

Dear ██████████,

Officers of Doncaster Council (the “Council”) and its aviation advisers are seeking to arrange a meeting with the Civil Aviation Authority’s (“CAA”) airspace change team in order to discuss the future status of the airspace that DSA has hitherto relied upon. The main purpose of this meeting is to apprise the CAA of the Council’s and its regional partners’ intention to acquire DSA, by Compulsory Purchase Order if necessary, in order to secure its use for aviation in the future and to re-open the airport for commercial traffic as soon as possible.

This action is supported by Council resolution, all local MPs, the business sector across South Yorkshire and a local petition supporting the airport’s retention which, as of the date of this letter, has attracted nearly 130,000 signatures. As a result, we are anxious to ensure that the status of the airspace required for the airport’s commercial operations does not impede the process of re-opening DSA and that the CAA does not consequently take any action that would result in this.

We understand that the Peel Group, which currently holds and/or controls DSA through a variety of different entities, has given notice of its intention to close the airport despite it still being engaged in negotiations with potential investors. We do not believe the status of the associated airspace merits being changed whilst these negotiations are ongoing, nor indeed thereafter, given the Council’s determined intention to acquire and operate the airport with a private sector partner, for which we have uncovered substantial market interest.

You should be aware that the airport site is allocated solely for airport use under policy 6 of the recently adopted Doncaster Local Plan (2015-2035); there is no proposal that this should be changed, and no other forms of use will be contemplated should they come forward.

Given that Peel has in effect terminated its interest in retaining the site as an airport, we would also respectfully suggest that they have de facto extinguished any interest in the future status of the airspace associated with it, and that the Council, as the relevant local planning authority and a prospective future owner of DSA, should now be regarded as a primary stakeholder interest with which CAA should now be discussing this issue. With this in mind, we would formally request that DSA remains an ‘officially safeguarded’ aerodrome for planning purposes and consequently is not removed from the CAA’s list of ‘officially safeguarded’ aerodromes. The Council will make provisions to ensure this function is appropriately resourced if this is agreed.

It is for the above reasons that we request to urgently convene discussions with your officials, which we would be grateful for your help in facilitating.

If it would assist to discuss the above, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED]
Assistant Director of Policy, Insight and Change [REDACTED]

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Mayor of Doncaster