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Manston Airport submits proposals for re-opening.

Manston Airport in Kent closed in May 2014 after the majority stake in the company which owns the site was sold to a third party with the purpose of redeveloping the site. Since this date, there has been a great deal of debate over the future of the site whether as an airport or redeveloped.

PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC) have been appointed to review the documents put forward by Thanet District Council who hope to secure the future of the site as an airport. Thanet District Council are keen to reopen the airport in order to create additional jobs and regenerate the local economy.

The proposals include plans to block planning consent for the redevelopment, effect compulsory purchase of the site, obtain the necessary licences to reopen and enlist commercial partners for the future. PWC have now submitted their initial findings on the proposals and will submit their final report to the Department of Transport by the end of May 2015. The department will announce the outcome of the review and whether work will continue on the proposals to reopen in due course.

Source: GOV.uk (Department for Transport)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pwc-submits-initial-report-on-manston-airport>

Court of Appeal rules on ship-owners liability for loss of cargo.

The Court of Appeal have ruled that an in-transit loss clause covers loss of a kind which is encountered in a normal voyage and specifically stated that it did not permit a charterer to bring a successful claim where loss of cargo was due to piracy. The contract which the Court of Appeal were asked to rule on incorporated the Hague-Visby Rules which expressly exclude piracy from the type of loss which a carrier can be liable for. The *Valle Di Cordoba* case considered the function of in-transit loss clauses in great detail and concluded that their purpose is to identify a level of loss over which a charterer will be able to claim. The type of loss must be one which is encountered on a normal voyage and therefore does not cover loss by piracy.

The Court of Appeal ruled that an in-transit clause could not cover all loss because to do so would make any ship-owner an insurer of the cargo for the length of that journey. The case is considered to have upheld the commercial reality of the relationship between charter party and ship-owner. It was held that if the intention is for a ship-owner to act as an insurer of cargo then any clause should be clearly drafted to reflect that.

Source: Westlaw (subscriber access only)

<http://login.westlaw.co.uk/maf/wluk/app/document?&srguid=i0ad8289e0000014d09a484c65cfc2c45&docguid=11BC5ACE0B79411E48298A76A5749DC77&hitguid=11BC5ACE0B79411E48298A76A5749DC77&rank=1&spos=1&epos=1&td=2&crumb-action=append&context=3&resolvein=true>

Proposals announced to retime London deliveries in order to ease congestion.

Representatives from the Freight industry and businesses are meeting with Transport for London bosses to discuss re-timing business deliveries in London outside of the peak hours of 07.00 and 13.00.

It is hoped that changes to delivery times would lower carbon-emissions, reduce journey times and increase safety on London's roads. Transport for London has announced the proposals in light of population growth and development to infrastructure (such as the "Cycle Superhighway") which present a challenge to reducing commuter journeys.

Over £200 billion of goods are moved each year using London's roads and London Transport Commissioner, Sir Peter Hendry, has stressed that it is now an important time for businesses to adapt to the challenges of city transport.

Source: BBC.co.uk

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-32510884>

Heathrow announces changes to airport charges.

Heathrow airport has announced that it will be lowering charges for airlines flying domestic routes and making up the shortfall by charging more to those airlines which create more noise and air pollution. The airlines which are eligible for the reduction will see a £10 reduction on the average £30 charge per passenger. As the charge is levied on airlines, critics have argued that it is debateable whether passengers will see this reduction.

Source: The Guardian

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/apr/02/heathrow-airport-to-increase-charges-for-noisy-polluting-aircraft>