

# HS2 Funding Referendum Bill

---

---

## CONTENTS

- 1 Referendum on the financing of the HS2 railway
- 2 Entitlement to vote in the referendum
- 3 Information for electors
- 4 Expenditure
- 5 Extent and short title

A  
**B I L L**

TO

Make provision for a national referendum on whether the proposed construction of the HS2 railway should be supported financially by the UK taxpayer.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

**1 Referendum on the financing of the HS2 railway**

- (1) A referendum is to be held on whether the UK taxpayer should support financially the HS2 railway.
- (2) The referendum must be held before the commencement of construction of the HS2 railway. 5
- (3) The Secretary of State shall by regulations, and with a minimum of three months notice, appoint the day on which the referendum is to be held.
- (4) The question that is to appear on the ballot papers is—  
“Do you support the use of UK taxpayers’ money to pay for the construction of the HS2 railway?”. 10
- (5) In Wales, a Welsh version of the question is also to appear on the ballot papers, as provided by regulations.
- (6) Regulations under this section shall be made by statutory instrument and may not be made unless a draft of the regulations has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament. 15

**2 Entitlement to vote in the referendum**

Those entitled to vote in the referendum are the persons who, on the date of the referendum, would be entitled to vote as electors at a parliamentary election in any constituency.

**3 Information for electors**

- (1) Each person entitled to vote in the referendum shall be supplied with an information booklet summarising the costs and benefits to UK taxpayers of the construction of the HS2 railway.
- (2) The content, publication and distribution of the information booklet in subsection (1) shall be the responsibility of the Electoral Commission. 5

**4 Expenditure**

*There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament –*

- (a) *any expenditure of the Secretary of State in consequence of this Act,*
- (b) *any expenditure of the Electoral Commission in commissioning, producing and distributing the information booklet required by section 3, and* 10
- (c) *any increase attributable to this Act in the sums which under any other Act are payable out of money so provided.*

**5 Extent and short title**

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. 15
- (2) This Act may be cited as the HS2 Funding Referendum Act 2015.

# HS2 Funding Referendum Bill

---

---

A

## B I L L

To make provision for a national referendum on whether the proposed construction of the HS2 railway should be supported financially by the UK taxpayer.

*Presented by Mr Christopher Chope,  
supported by  
Mrs Cheryl Gillan, Sir John Randall,  
Michael Fabricant, Mr James Gray,  
Mr Peter Bone and Mr Andrew Turner.*

---

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,  
to be Printed, 7 July 2014.*

---

© Parliamentary copyright House of Commons 2015

*This publication may be reproduced under the terms of the Open Parliament Licence, which is published at  
[www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright](http://www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright).*

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON – THE STATIONERY OFFICE LIMITED  
Printed in the United Kingdom by  
The Stationery Office Limited  
£x.xx

Bill 48

(xxxxxx)

55/4

xxxbarxxx