



House of Commons
Select Committee on the
Crossrail Bill

**The Crossrail Bill:
Woolwich Station**

1st Special Report of Session 2005–06

*Ordered by The House of Commons
to be printed on 30th October 2006*

HC 1597

Published on 30th October 2006
by authority of the House of Commons
London: The Stationery Office Limited

The Select Committee on the Crossrail Bill

The Select Committee on the Crossrail Bill is appointed by the House of Commons to consider:

(a) any Petition against the Bill presented by being deposited in the Private Bill Office at any time not later than 16th September 2005, and

(b) any Petition which has been presented by being deposited in the Private Bill Office and in which the Petitioners complain of any amendment as proposed in the filled-up Bill or of any matter which has arisen during the progress of the Bill before the Select Committee, being a Petition in which the Petitioners pray to be heard by themselves, their Counsel or Agents.

That, notwithstanding the practice of the House that appearances on Petitions against an opposed Private Bill be required to be entered at the first meeting of the Select Committee on the Bill, in the case of any such Petitions as are mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) above on which appearances are not entered at that meeting, the Select Committee shall appoint a later day on which it will require appearances on those Petitions to be entered.

That any Petitioner whose Petition stands referred to the Select Committee shall, subject to the Rules and Orders of the House and to the Prayer of his Petition, be entitled to be heard by himself, his Counsel or Agents upon his Petition provided that it is prepared and signed in conformity with the Rules and Orders of the House, and the Member in charge of the Bill shall be entitled to be heard by his Counsel or Agents in favour of the Bill against that Petition.

That the Select Committee have power to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place and to report from day to day the Minutes of Evidence taken before it.

That three be the Quorum of the Select Committee.

Current membership

Mr Alan Meale (Labour, Mansfield) (Chairman)
Mr Brian Binley (Conservative, Northampton South)
Ms Katy Clark (Labour, North Ayrshire and Arran)
Mr Philip Hollobone (Conservative, Kettering)
Kelvin Hopkins (Labour, Luton North)
Mrs Siân C. James (Labour, Swansea East)
Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger (Conservative, Bridgwater)
John Pugh (Liberal Democrats, Southport)
Mrs Linda Riordan (Labour, Halifax)
Sir Peter Soulsby (Labour, Leicester South)

Publications

The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee are on the Internet at www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/crossrail.cfm

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Sian Jones (Clerk) and Darren Hackett (Committee Assistant).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to Private Bill Office, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 3250; the Committee's email address is prbohoc@parliament.uk

Issues relating to Woolwich Station

The Select Committee on the Crossrail Bill has been charged with hearing the cases of individuals and organisations affected by the Crossrail Bill. We have a responsibility to listen to the arguments from both the Promoters of the Bill and those affected. We have the power to amend the Bill in favour of either party, if we feel it necessary. The Committee may then report the bill with or without amendment to the House.

We are making a Special Report to the House to highlight our dissatisfaction with recent proceedings in Committee, regarding Crossrail and Woolwich. We strongly agree with the arguments presented to us regarding the addition of a station at Woolwich. We heard three days of legal argument from both the Local Authority and from Counsel for the Promoters [the Government]¹. We have also undertaken a visit to the proposed site with representatives from each party. We noted that the Petitioners' calculations of cost for this station showed that it would provide exceptional value for money and we called upon the Promoters to bring forward the necessary additional provision to add this to the bill. The Secretary of State has nonetheless declined to promote the required provision.

The House has the power to instruct the Committee not to consider specific issues relating to the Bill. The development of a station at Woolwich was not one of those issues. Equally the Promoters of the Bill have the right to challenge the *locus standi*² of any petitioner at the beginning of the Committee hearings. No challenges have been made in relation to Petitioners from Woolwich or on any other issue. Counsel for the Promoters spent extensive amounts of time presenting the case of the Government to the Committee. We are amazed that, having set the case before the Committee in this quasi-judicial proceeding, the Secretary of State feels unable to accept the considered view of this Committee.

It is for the House to decide how to instruct the Committee and therefore we now wish to report to the House that the Committee, acting in accordance with the practice of the House and its instructions, has resolved that an Additional Provision should be promoted in relation to Woolwich Station. **We ask that the Promoters bring forward the necessary provision without delay.**

¹ Select Committee Transcript 9-11 May 2006: HC 837- xxix to xxxi.

² If the Promoters of a bill feel that someone who petitions against a bill is not directly and specially affected they may object to the Petitioners' right to petition, known as their *locus standi*.