

IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

Against- on Merits – By Counsel, &c.

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Parliament assembled,

THE HUMBLE PETITION of LINDA PILKINGTON of

SHEWETH as follows:-

1

A Bill (hereinafter referred to as “the Bill”) has been introduced and is now pending in your Honourable House intituled “A Bill to make provision for a railway between Euston in London and a junction with the West Coast Main Line at Handsacre in Staffordshire, with a spur from Old Oak Common in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham to a junction with the Channel Tunnel Rail Link at York Way in the London Borough of Islington and a spur from Water Orton in Warwickshire to Curzon Street in Birmingham; and for connected purposes.”

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The Bill is presented by Mr Secretary McLoughlin

Clauses of the Bill

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Clauses 1 to 3 of the Bill, together with Schedules 1 to 4, make provision for the construction and maintenance of the proposed works including the ‘Scheduled Works’ set out in Schedule 1. Provision is included to confer powers for various works and operations, including railway, highway and other building and engineering works and operations. Powers are also included to enable entry onto and interference with land and buildings for investigatory, protective and other purposes, together with powers to enable occupiers to be required to undertake work to trees, powers to use watercourses, public sewers and drains for drainage purposes and power temporarily to interfere with and use waterways.

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Clauses 4 to 18 of the Bill, together with Schedules 5 to 15, make provision for the compulsory acquisition and the temporary use of land and for the extinction or exclusion of certain rights in land. Provision is also included for the application or variation of compensation provisions.

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Clauses 19 to 36 of the Bill, together with Schedules 16 to 26, make provision for the grant of planning permission and other consents and for the disapplication or modification of various controls, including those relating to heritage, water, building control, party walls, street works, lorries, noise and local legislation.

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Clauses 37 to 42 of the Bill, together with Schedule 27 and 28, make provision for railway matters. Provision is included for the application (with modifications) and disapplication in parts of the existing railways regulatory regime, enabling agreements to be required to be entered into between the nominated undertaker and controllers of railway assets and other railway facilities and for the transfer of statutory powers in relation to railway assets.

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Clauses 43 to 65 of the Bill, together with Schedules 29 to 31, contain general and miscellaneous provisions. These include provision for the designation of nominated undertakers, the making of transfer schemes, provision for statutory undertakers, provision for the compulsory acquisition of land for regeneration and for relocation purposes, and powers for the reinstatement of land. Provision is also included to apply powers of the Bill to further high speed works, to confer a power of entry for further high speed works, as to the application of the Environment Impact Assessment Regulations and as respects the application of arbitration.

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The works proposed to be authorised by the Bill are specified in clauses 1 and 2 of Schedules 1 and 2 of the Bill. They consist of scheduled works, which are described in Schedule 1 to the Bill and other works, which are described in clause 2 of and Schedules 2 and 3 to the Bill.

Your Petitioner

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2 Park Village East is a residential home in London NW1. Park Village East is adjacent to the section of the existing railway line leading into Euston, and immediately adjacent to the proposed construction of the section of high speed line which is designated by the Promoter as "Community Forum Area (CFA) 1-Euston-Station and Approach. Your Petitioners are directly and specifically affected by the provisions of the Bill for the reasons set out below

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Your Petitioner and my right, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, but no work has been done by the Promoter or its engineers to establish that this engineering challenge is indeed safe to do so along Park Village East. 2 Park Village East had to have the basement filled in to make the building safe. The Promoter or its engineers have not taken soil samples or anything to establish that the project can be done without substantial damages to 2 Park Village East. I ask the Promoters to assess our property before any works start in order to safeguard the integrity of my Grade 2* listed building and to annually survey 2 Park Village East during the works along Park Village East and for up to a decade after the works are finished.

11

I live at 2 Park Village East which is situated less than 30m from the railway line. In many areas of the HS2 project, this would automatically qualify home-owners for significant protection. Many homes outside the M25 will receive more generous compensation for far less serious blight. The principle of compensation is already conceded and it is wrong for Park Village East to be excluded from it. The value of my home, by far the largest part of my family's wealth, has and will suffer over an extended period of time, at least the next decade. For many years I will suffer inconvenience of noise, dust and traffic blockage

12

Your Petitioner asks for some form of protection of the value of 2 Park Village East in the form of a 'Property Bond'. It is fair that should the situation arise where I need to sell my property during the long period of disruption due to, but not limited to, change of job, ill health, major increase in mortgage rates, divorce or death, this burden of 'blight' should not fall on my personal shoulders when I am suffering for the benefit of the majority.

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Your Petitioner respectfully requests that the government should include 2 Park Village East in a binding commitment with regards for the express purchase scheme or include 2 Park Village East in the safe-guarded area

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Your Petitioner respectfully submit that the Bill should be amended or undertakings should be required so that the Promoter, the Secretary of State and/or the Nominated Undertaker make appropriate provision for compensation, without irrelevant preconditions based on means testing or hardship, for your Petitioners house is already unable to be sold on the market

Conclusion

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For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioner respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, so far affecting your Petitioner, should not be allowed to pass into law

YOUR PETITIONER therefore humbly pray your Honourable House that the Bill may not be allowed to pass into law as it now stands and that they may be heard by their

Counsel, Agents and witnesses in support of the allegations of this Petition against so much of the Bill as affects the property, rights and interests of your Petitioner and in support of such other clauses and provisions as may be necessary or expedient for their protection, or that such other relief may be given to your Petitioner in the premises as your Honourable House shall deem meet

AND your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Ms. Linda Pilkington