

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF
COMMONS
SESSION
2013 - 2014

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON TO WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

Against – On Merits – Praying to be heard 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 **ABDUL AZIZ RATTANSI**

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.”
2. The Bill is presented by Mr Secretary McLoughlin, supported by The Prime Minister, The Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, Secretary Theresa May, Secretary Vince Cable, Secretary Iain Duncan Smith, Secretary Eric Pickles, Secretary Owen Paterson, Secretary Edward Davey, and Mr Robert Goodwill.
3. Clauses 1 to 36 set out the Bill's objectives in relation to the construction and operation of the railway mentioned in paragraph 1 above. They include provision for the construction of works, highways and road traffic matters, the compulsory acquisition of land and other provisions relating to the use of land, planning permission, heritage issues, trees and noise. They include clauses which would disapply and modify various enactments relating to special categories of land including burial grounds, consecrated land, commons and open spaces, and other matters, including overhead lines, water, building regulations and party walls, street works and the use of lorries.
4. Clauses 37 to 42 of the Bill deal with the regulatory regime for the railway.
5. Clauses 43 to 65 of the Bill set out a number of miscellaneous and general provisions, including provision for the appointment of a nominated undertaker (“the Nominated

Undertaker”) to exercise the powers under the Bill, transfer schemes, provisions relating to statutory undertakers and the Crown, provision about the compulsory acquisition of land for regeneration, reinstatement works and provision about further high speed railway works. Provision is also made about the application of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.

6. The works proposed to be authorised by the Bill (“the Authorised Works”) are specified in clauses 1 and 2 of and Schedule 1 to 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 the Bill.
7. Your Petitioner is **Abdul Aziz Rattansi** (hereinafter referred to as ‘Your Petitioner’), occupier of **104 Drummond Street, London NW1 2HN** (‘the Property’). I am a man of 73, living with cancer. I live alone in this property and have been here for nearly thirty years. Over the years I have spent a great deal of money bringing this Georgian terraced house to a habitable condition. I am highly concerned that the impact of construction and related traffic on my property and my health. The area has already been impacted by the construction of the Victoria Line and I am concerned that the construction of HS2 will cause further significant problems. I do not have a car and walk in the area for a variety of purposes including leisure and shopping and I am a regular visitor to the British Library and access to this facility will be far more difficult during construction.
8. The Petitioner and his interests are injuriously affected by the bill to which your petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
9. Your Petitioner’s house sits within 100 metres of Coburg Street on which all buildings will be demolished. I have the following concerns about the planned work:
 - 9a That the vibration caused in Drummond Street as one of the conduits through which lorries, trucks and other heavy plant trundling all day for years, will destabilise the foundations of my house.
 - 9b That the air pollution will be injurious to my health.
 - 9c That the constant noise over ten years will be stressful and my doctors advise me that I need to avoid stress.
 - 9d That the loss of St James’s Gardens, the only green space in the neighbourhood reachable without a longish walk requiring crossing busy streets, would seriously detract from the quality of my life and others in my community.

- 10 The following is a list of my requests to mitigate the effects of the concerns listed above:
- 10a That I, your petitioner would like HS2 to fund an independent structural survey of my house to be carried out before work starts; at yearly intervals during the construction phase and finally, at the end of the work.
 - 10b That air pollution and noise levels be constantly monitored triggering action if any parameters exceed health and safety guidelines, either national or European, whichever are more stringent.
 - 10c That your petitioner be offered alternative accommodation of equivalent standard and within Camden should my house become either unsafe or uninhabitable for any reason caused by the construction works or the operation of HS2.
 - 10d That, while not objecting to HS2 in principle, your petitioner implores that the footprint of the new station not exceed the footprint of the current station so as not to encroach upon St James's Garden – an amenity that will be even more precious with completion of the HS2.
11. There are other clauses and provisions in the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect your Petitioner and their rights, (including their human rights) interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioner and other clauses and provisions necessary for their protection and benefit are omitted therefrom.

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 such of the clauses and provisions of the Bill as affect 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 Petitioner will ever pray, &c

Signed Abdul Aziz Rattansi

