

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2014/2015

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – 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 Sylvia Lilian Ball

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 the freehold owner and occupier Sylvia Lilian Ball of Lakeside, Old Uxbridge Road, West Hyde, Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 9XP The HS2 construction site is approximately 400 Metres in front of my property.
- 8 Your Petitioner and her rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
- 9 The line itself and the construction work will destroy the rural nature of the area which is adjacent to the Colne Valley Park and is in the Green Belt.

The noise, light and air pollution from the site over a 24 hour continuous working period will be severely detrimental to the health of myself and the residents of West Hyde. There will be sleep deprivation from the noise it will generate. There will be dust to affect our breathing. I have also concerns of the asbestos which was dumped into the ground years ago and which is marked on your maps as contaminated land. If that was disturbed unwittingly and the spores were released it could then cause untold damage.

Local traffic will be dramatically affected during the construction and there will be closures and rerouting of roads. Chalfont Lane is of a particular concern to me as the proposal to widen the section into the A412. This I understand would be for vehicles to access the offices and that the HGVs would be using the new road to the M25. When the M25 is snarled up, which it is on most days I fear we will have the HGVs using this route. In a one hour period between 7.30am and 8.30am on a Friday morning I counted 600 vehicles passing my front door, this is a narrow lane with no footpath. A lane used by children on their way to their school.

Flooding in our section of Old Uxbridge Road has been an issue over the past months causing us to have the road pumped to get rid of the water. My concern is when they create the hard standing to the construction site and

they raise the levels in the fields opposite my house with the spoil from the extraction my home we will be at a greater risk of flood.

I have recently been bereaved my husband passed away in March 2014. I am gravely concerned that my house is now blighted and I would be unable to sell the property to finance my nursing care and my every day living. I am nearly 77 years old. If I were to have an emergency my son lives 9 minutes away from me. When they close Chalfont Lane it will take him 30 minutes. It will also effect the emergency services.

- 10 Your petitioner suggest that the Bill should be amended to build this section of the line underground so as to protect the Green Belt and the Colne Valley Park as well as the petitioner and other local residents who will be affected by construction and operation of the Railway.

Your Petitioner also suggests that the compensation arrangements are inadequate. Property values have already been affected and I and many others are relying on our property value to fund our downsizing and probable nursing home requirements. The Hardship Compensation Scheme is too onerous and will take too long to access when needed for the elderly. Time is not on our side.

Compensation for property damage during construction and operation is not sufficient.

Your Petitioner request that that compensation arrangements are improved and make provision for older people and their homes.

There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially effect your Petitioner and their rights, interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioners.

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 Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

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Sylvia Lilian Ball

AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

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