

IN PARLIAMENT  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL [LONDON-WEST MIDLANDS]

PETITION

Against the Bill - praying to be heard by counsel,&c

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TO THE HONOURABLE THE COMMONS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND NORTHERN IRELAND IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF CHARLOTTE SUSAN JONES

SHEWETH as follows: -

1. A Bill [hereinafter called "the Bill"] has been introduced into 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 ["Phase One of HS2"] are specified in clauses 1 and 2 of and Schedules 1 and 2 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 and Schedules 2 and 3 to the Bill.

7. Your petitioner is the freehold owner of 8 Almond Close, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 6EB, which is located in the London Borough of Hillingdon. Your petitioner resides at this property with her husband and three children.

8. Your petitioner alleges that her and her family's property, rights and interests would be injuriously and prejudicially affected by the provisions of the Bill if passed into law in their present form and accordingly objects to the Bill for the reasons, amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

9. Your petitioner opposes the Bill in principle. Whilst your petitioner acknowledges that the principle of the Bill is established at second reading, your petitioner's views on the subject are so strong, they must be recorded in this petition.

10. Your petitioner alleges that the Government should have carried out a Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment prior to its decision to proceed with the HS2 scheme in January 2012. Furthermore, your petitioners consider that the Environmental Statement fails to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, the HS2 proposal will cause harm to the open countryside and Green Belt land, which is arguably contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework, insufficient time has been allowed for comprehensive consideration of the Environmental Statement consultation responses and that there has been a wholly inadequate summary of these responses which has overtly omitted vast amounts of very significant information which should have been included.

11. There are a number of matters which cause great concern to your petitioner, arising from the proposals in the Bill, which affect your petitioner's property.

12. Your petitioner's property is one of eight properties in Almond Close. It is a semi-detached property which is adjoined to 7 Almond Close.

13. It is proposed that a tunnel will be constructed under the land in Ruislip in which your petitioner's property is located; no trains will run on an overland route through this part of the London Borough of Hillingdon.

14. Clause 4 of the Bill gives the Secretary of State the power to acquire land required for the purpose of Phase One of HS2. Clause 8 of the Bill provides that the power under clause 4 may be exercised in relation to the sub-soil or under-surface of the land only.

15. Your petitioner has been informed by HS2 Ltd that her property does not lie within HS2's subsurface safeguarding limits and is therefore not required for the purpose of construction works.

16. Your petitioner's neighbours in Almond Close, including her immediate neighbour at 7 Almond Close, have received notification from HS2 Ltd that their properties do fall within the subsurface safeguarding limits and that the sub-soil or under-surface of their properties is to be acquired.

17. HS2 Ltd have given your petitioner's neighbours assurances that the appropriate safeguarding works will be undertaken in relation to their properties including the conducting of before and after full condition surveys and monitoring. Your petitioner's neighbours have also received assurances

regarding vibration and noise arising from the construction of the tunnel and they have been informed that they will be entitled to enter into Settlement Deeds.

18. Your petitioner is very concerned that she and her family have been unfairly excluded from any discussions with HS2 Ltd in relation to her property. The proposed high speed railway line only narrowly misses the end of the back garden of your petitioner's property but it does cross the boundary of 7 Almond Close. Your petitioner's property and 7 Almond Close are also part of the same building.

19. Your petitioner's property is in very close proximity to the proposed high speed railway line and notwithstanding the fact that her property does not fall within the subsurface safeguarding limits, your petitioner contends that she is affected by the HS2 scheme to the same extent as her neighbours.

20. Your petitioner is very concerned that her property will be adversely affected by the excavation of tunnels, with the consequent removal of soil, and she and her family will be exposed to both undue noise and vibration during sensitive times. Your petitioner is also concerned about the effects of reradiated noise at the worksites in Ruislip where soil is to be deposited.

21. Your petitioner has written to HS2 Ltd setting out her concerns in relation to the inequitable manner in which she and her family have been treated and has received a written reply which your petitioner considers to be unsatisfactory in that it adequately fails to address your petitioner's concerns.

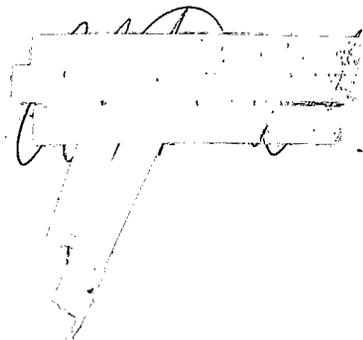
22. It is for all these reasons that your petitioner would request your honourable House to require that HS2 Ltd gives your petitioner the same assurances that it has given to your petitioner's neighbours and that she and her family are invited to enter into a Settlement Deed. Your petitioner also specifically requires that the nominated undertaker should be required to provide, in advance of commencement of tunnelling, details of the expected impact on your petitioner's property. This information should be provided to your petitioner and should be accompanied by a statement of the method by which the impact is to be monitored before, during and after construction.

23. Your petitioner would also request your honourable House to require the nominated undertaker to comply with the strictest standards as regards minimising noise and vibration arising from the excavation of the tunnel and ensures that the hours during which tunnelling and soil removal from tunnelling takes place are programmed and minimised so as to prevent undue noise and vibration to your petitioner and her family during sensitive times.

YOUR PETITIONER therefore humbly prays your Honourable House that the Bill may not be allowed to pass into law as it now stands and that she may be heard by her 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, &cc.

Charlotte Susan Jones



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Against the Bill - By Counsel, & c.

Charlotte Susan Jones