

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 MARGARET MUIR
SHEWETH as follows:-

- 1 A Bill (hereinafter referred to as “the bill”) has been introduced and is now pending in your honourable House intitled “A bill to make provision for a railway between Euston in London and a junction with the West Coast Mainline 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 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 setting out the Bills in relation to the construction and operation of the railway mentioned in paragraph 1 above. Including 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 dealing with the regulatory regime for the railway.

- 5 Clauses 43 to 65 of the Bill setting out a number of miscellaneous and general provisions, including provision for the appointment of a 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 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 Margaret Muir who lives with her daughter Lea Muir Walters at 10c Mornington Crescent, Camden, London NW1 7RH. We have lived in our two bedroom council flat for twenty two years. Our home is on a street which the Bill has designated a construction traffic route and the land on which our home, together with the garden which abuts the railway cutting concerned in the Bill, is designated as land which is potentially required during construction. 10 Mornington Crescent is situated within a terrible "triangulation" of works, which will take place from mid 2015 to 2026, with an eleven month, twenty four hour a day, seven day a week works proposal under the Bill. This will make our home uninhabitable.
- 8 Your Petitioner and her rights and interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
- 9 I am a sixty year old woman and my daughter is twenty four. I have a heart condition which means that from the age of twenty one I have had a pacemaker. I also suffer from asthma. I work locally at Primrose hill Primary school where I am the English as an Additional Language/ Ethnic Minority Achievement Higher Level Teaching Assistant. My daughter is about to finish her Post Graduate Certificate of Education in Further Education. The impact of the demolition, construction works, heavy duty haulage traffic and resultant dust emission, increase in nitrogen dioxide levels and continuous noise will seriously affect my health and well-being. It will also have a deleterious effect on my daughter's ability to gain employment if she is unable to sleep, study or function normally due to the grave impact of the HS2 scheme.
- The Bill will also destroy many wonderful local assets such as St. James'

Gardens, the National Temperance hospital, The Mornington Street bridge, the avenue of mature plane trees along Mornington Terrace, a third of Harrington Square Gardens; where I go to sit as our flat does not have a garden. Our home is in a late Georgian crescent. The floors and stairs are already a bit like the house that Jack built. I have serious misgivings about the impact on the integral structure of our building during construction work.

My walk to work will also be affected as the whole of Mornington Terrace will be a construction traffic route with a satellite construction compound. Once at work in Primrose Hill Primary in Princess Road, our children and staff in the school will be subject to the effects of land requisition for the relaying and suchlike of utilities.

Mornington Crescent and the surrounding area will disappear as an historical, interesting, unique and thriving part of London, instead a decade of heavy road traffic, giant hoardings, demolition and construction sites, high pollution and noise will dismember and destroy our community.

Your Petitioner dreads the disastrous impact on her and her daughter's life, home, community and environment that the proposed HS2 Bill sets out. Your Petitioner will simply be unable to survive under such conditions.

- 10 For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioner respectfully submits that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, Clauses 1 to 36, Clauses 37 to 42, Clauses 43 to 65 of and to Schedules 1, 2 and 3, your Petitioner objects to the powers that are proposed to be provided by the Bill to the Secretary of State and the Nominated undertaker and respectfully submits that the Bill should be amended or undertakings should be required so that HS2 Limited, the Secretary of State and/or the Nominated Undertaker must review the construction strategy for the project and its related works by considering their cumulative impacts on communities. And they need to suggest necessary changes from the results of that review before works design and construction strategies have been finalised or construction contractors employed. The High Speed 2 Rail Bill, so far affecting your Petitioner, should not be allowed to pass into law.
- 11 There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect your Petitioner and her rights and interests and for which no adequate provision is made to protect Your Petitioner.

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 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 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.

[Faint signature area]

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON-WEST MIDLANDS)BILL
PETITION OF MARGARET MUIR

AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

[Faint signature area]

BACKSHEET:

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL
PETITION OF MARGARET MUIR

Against the Bill – On Merits – By Counsel &c