

**PETITION AGAINST A PRIVATE BILL**

IN PARLIAMENT  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
SESSION 2013–14

**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 **ANTONIETTA WINTON**

SHEWETH as follows:-

1. A Bill (hereinafter referred to as “the Bill”) has been introduced and is now pending in your Honourable House entitled “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 authorized 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 lives at flat 6, Coniston, Harrington Street, London NW1 3SG. Her flat is only 30 m from Silverdale, one of the three blocks on Camden's Regent's Park Estate which is due for demolition to make way for the HS2 tracks. Your petitioner has lived in 6 Coniston since 1983 and brought up her family here. In 1994 she bought a lease under the Right-to-Buy scheme and she has 105 years remaining on her lease.

8. Your Petitioner and her interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your petitioner objects for reasons among others, hereinafter appearing.

9. Your petitioner has been very worried about the HS2 scheme since it was announced in mid-2010 and the way it will affect her future. As a result she is now suffering severe anxiety, depression and fear. She has been treated for this since September 2013 by her GP, Dr Joanna Wyatt, Fitzrovia Medical Centre and by a Consultant Psychiatrist, Dr Nadia Davies, Peckwater Centre. Your Petitioner has letters to this effect from her medical advisors. Your petitioner had breast cancer in 2003 and it is of vital importance to her that she lives near University College Hospital, as is the case now.

10. Your petitioner is 67 years old and now lives on her own. By profession she is an Administrator at St Mary's Hospital, Orthopaedic Department, but due to her severe anxiety was away from work in 2013 for 11 weeks and this year continuously from 12<sup>th</sup> March and for the foreseeable future. She is not well-off financially and certainly will not be able to afford alternative accommodation for even a short period while the work on HS2 is underway.

11. Because your petitioner's building is as close as physically possible to the proposed works without demolition, she will be directly and specially affected by the noise and disruption of the demolition and construction works inherent in the scheme; this will often take place over 24 hours, 7 days a week, on and off over a eleven year period. She will also be subjected to all the traffic, dust, pollution and infestation by vermin that these works are sure to bring about.

12. The extremely high level of noise and disturbance in this part of the Camden's Regent's Park Estate, including at night, is acknowledged in HS2's Environmental Statement CFA 01, where statements include the following:

*at paragraph 5.4.6, "Temporary Affects"*

*The programme to construct the Proposed Scheme at Euston, re-construct Hampstead Road Bridge and the use of the Granby Terrace Bridge satellite compound will take place over an 11 year period. ....These [temporary affects] will affect the residential blocks of Langdale, Cartmel, Coniston, The Tarns and Augustus House. .... The combination of these effects, which are expected to*

*coincide for up to four years, will result in a major adverse effect on the amenity of residents, which is considered significant.*

*and in Table 14, "Adverse effects of construction noise and vibration that are considered to be significant on a community basis"*

*Construction noise and vibration: Day - Approximately 80 dwellings in Langdale and Coniston on Harrington Street [will experience] Utility trenching, demolition of Ainsdale, Silverdale and buildings in the station approach, major earthworks, barrette retaining wall construction, construction of new bridge and carriageway with typical and highest monthly noise levels around 70dB and 85dB for 40 months. ....*

*Construction noise: Evening - Approximately 80 dwellings in Langdale and Coniston on Harrington Street - Construction of barrette retaining walls and abutments with typical and highest monthly noise levels around 65dB and 70dB for 2 months .....*

*Construction noise: Night - Approximately 80 dwellings in Langdale and Coniston on Harrington Street - Installation of bridge demolition deck, construction of new bridge pier, installation of temporary supports, trusses and precast decks with typical and highest monthly noise levels around 65dB and 70dB for 6 months*

13. Because of the very long period the work will cover, until 2026 at the very earliest, she will be an old lady at its completion, of at least 80. But she is very uncertain that her health will be able to withstand what she is sure will be a truly nightmarish experience.

14. Your Petitioner is also worried about access to and from her building, and understands that the quickest and presently most peaceful route to Mornington Crescent underground station and the shops of Camden Town will be blocked by the demolition of the Granby Terrace bridge. The rebuilding of Hampstead Road Bridge and all the extra construction traffic is also very likely to slow down local buses.

15. In the long run, your Petitioner is also very concerned that the noise of the new railway operating almost directly below her windows will continue to cause stress and sleeplessness, and on top of this she understands there is to be much new building construction, and greatly increased road traffic.

16. Your Petitioner also requests that the committee take into account the great stress of the present uncertainty regarding the Euston area. In reality, residents now have no real idea of when the work will begin, what it will consist of, and when it will finish.

17. Your petitioner does not believe that the scheme as represented by the Bill constitutes the best solution for the Euston area. There are other solutions, some of them worked out now in great detail by volunteers, which would involve much less demolition and destruction of communities. Your Petitioner requests that you urgently consider these alternative schemes, in order of preference:

That the HS2 trains only come to Euston in a tunnel -

This could be a tunnel below the existing tracks which would form a new underground terminus at Euston. Or it could be a tunnel arriving at Euston from the west rather than the north; this tunnel would lead to an underground interchange station between Euston and St. Pancras with trains continuing eastward in a tunnel to Stratford and HS1; such a station could be shared with the planned Crossrail 2.

That the Double Deck Down scheme is adopted -

This envisages the new tracks running directly under the present classic tracks to come into Euston at a lower level. This is very economic of space; it presumes the rebuilding of Euston Station but does not need the line or station to extend to either side.

That the Euston Cross scheme is adopted -

This is the Scheme, proposed by Lords Berkeley and Bradshaw, would see the HS2 trains coming into Camden along what are currently the classic tracks and arriving at Euston near ground level. The capacity for the HS2 trains at Euston would be created by diverting local services via Crossrail 1.

That High Speed UK's "Interconnector" scheme is adopted -

Developed by independent railway experts, this is similar to the Euston Cross scheme in that it would use the existing classic tracks to bring trains into Euston. Allowing good opportunities for interchange before reaching central London, this scheme would ensure fewer passengers arriving at Euston and so putting less stress on the local transport system.

18. If the threat of HS2 did not exist, your Petitioner would be very content living on Camden's Regent's Park estate, an area of well-spaced, well-constructed blocks of flats in good condition, surrounded by mature trees and in general very peaceful. For these reasons, and because of the closeness of public transport, local shops, Regent's Park itself and central London, she had not been planning to move and would have been looking forward to spending the rest of her life here, in her own home and neighbourhood.

19. Your Petitioner respectfully requests that the Committee of your Honourable House should visit her flat in Coniston and the Regent's Park Estate in general, to see for itself the nature of the area and assess the magnitude of the effect which HS2's proposed works will have.

20. If Parliament nevertheless decides that the HS2 railway should go ahead as currently planned, she requests that the following mitigation measures be put in place: a sound barrier around the site, soundproofing for her own flat and building (Coniston), measures taken to dampen down dust and other pollution, and the avoidance of all unnecessary road traffic by the transport of spoil by train.

21. Your Petitioner's intention would be to remain in her flat but she cannot be certain of her own future circumstances, whether from the point of view of health or finances, and so may well want to sell her property to HS2. She fervently requests that the present highly unfair treatment of Camden residents by HS2 as regards compensation be recognised by the committee and that she and her neighbours are granted access to all the voluntary compensation schemes currently offered to country dwellers, including the Express Purchase and Rent Back schemes.

22. 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, interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioners.

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 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 Antonietta Winton.



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WEST MIDLANDS) BILL**

**PETITION OF  
ANTONIETTA WINSTON**

**AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.**

Mrs Antonietta Winston,  
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