

IN PARLIAMENT  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON-WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION

Against-on merits-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 the JEFFREYS STREET ASSOCIATION (JSA)

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 Ian 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 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 Schedule 2 and 3 to the Bill.
7. Your Petitioners are the residents of Jeffreys Street, Camden Town, London NW1, represented by the Jeffreys Street Association (‘JSA’). Your petitioners are long-term residents of the area reliant on local services, transport links, schools etc.
8. Your Petitioners and their interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons hereinafter appearing.
9. The Bill would authorise a link from HS2 to the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (HS1), to which your Petitioners object in the strongest terms. The link is unjustified, there is no evidence to support it and it has no credible business case. Your Petitioners would have been severely affected by the construction of the link carried out in the vicinity of their properties, including a construction compound in the adjacent street.
10. Your Petitioners are pleased to note the instruction that your honourable House has given to the Select Committee, saying that it shall not hear any petition that relates to the HS1 link, and welcomes this recognition by the government that the link is flawed. Your Petitioners reserve their right to appear on their petition on this subject, should impacts arise (e.g. the construction compound) in the area immediately surrounding our properties that are currently not able to be determined given the uncertainty that has been created.
11. Your Petitioners have concerns that their health will be directly affected by the additional dust, noise and pollution caused by the proposed road transport of materials to and spoil from the proposed tunneling, demolition and construction work of the Scheme.
12. Your Petitioners will have their daily commute and regular travel plans affected by severe disruption to traffic flows caused by the works, including re-routed local buses and the severe disruption at Euston Station, a key interchange.

13. Your Petitioners have significant concerns about the proposals for the Adelaide Road ventilation shaft. The proposed location of the shaft is adjacent to Adelaide Road, a vital thoroughfare providing access between Swiss Cottage and Camden Town and one which Your Petitioners regularly use.
14. The environmental statement that was deposited with the Bill ("the ES") suggests that Adelaide Road will need to be closed fully for a period of approximately four months during construction of the shaft, during which all traffic, including buses, will be diverted along England's Lane and Haverstock Hill. Any such closure (in whole or part) and diversion will cause great inconvenience to Your Petitioners who regularly use and access this area.
15. Your petitioners welcome the announcement of the decision of Mr Secretary McLoughlin to cancel the scheme to use the North London Line Viaduct for an HS1/2 link and release the safeguarding for that section of the previously proposed route. When that decision has been confirmed by an amendment to the Bill, we would like the Select Committee to require the Bill to be amended as follows to overcome our concerns with the scheme.
16. Your Petitioners object to the powers that are proposed to be provided by the Bill to the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker and respectfully submit 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 the adverse cumulative impact on Your Petitioners and others. The Select Committee is asked to require the scheme to mitigate the adverse impact on air quality and traffic congestion by, for example, requiring as much equipment and materials as possible to be transported to and from construction sites by Rail and not by Road.
17. There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill, which if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect your Petitioners and their rights, interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioners.

YOUR PETITIONERS 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 Petitioners 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 Petitioners in the premises as your Honourable House shall deem meet.

AND your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Signed: Sarah Jenkins representing Jeffreys Street Association

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P E T I T I O N

of

the JEFFREYS STREET ASSOCIATION (JSA)

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AGAINST,

BY COUNSEL, &c.