

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 The Governing Body of Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

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 Governing Body of Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School Herlwyn Avenue Ruislip Middlesex HA4 6EZ. The School represents the interests of its community which consists of pupils, staff, parents, governors and local residents.

8. The school has approximately 600 pupils between the ages of 3-11.

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

10. 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.

11. 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 petitioner considers 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.

12. There are a number of matters which cause great concern to your petitioners, arising from the proposals in the Bill. Most of the points are specific to the area within your petitioner's catchment area and some of the points apply to areas affecting the wider learning environment or activity areas of the school communities.

13. Your petitioner has identified several specific concerns which are set out below. This list is by no means exhaustive, and due to the inadequacy and inaccuracies of the Environmental Statement prepared by HS2 Ltd, it is inevitable that the construction of the high speed railway will disrupt the lives of your petitioner's school community in ways which are not yet known.

#### **Construction traffic**

14. The Promoter and Nominated Undertaker are proposing to construct a tunnel which will be adjacent to the side of your petitioner's school. Your petitioner is very concerned about the inadequacy of measures proposed to mitigate the effects of construction traffic which will adversely impact upon the school.

15. There will be HGV movements, twenty four hours a day seven days a week, on the main arterial roads such as West End Road, Ruislip High Street, Bury Street, Ladygate Lane, Breakspear Road and Ickenham Road. This will cause very significant congestion and disruption to your petitioner's school staff members in terms of their ability to travel to and from the school and also to parents of the pupils who bring and collect their children from school. Furthermore, the pupils themselves will be adversely affected as they require uninterrupted access to church services, and open spaces for recreational purposes as part of their curriculum and there will be an increased risk to their safety as a result of the HGV movements.

#### **Air Pollution and Noise**

16. Your petitioner is very concerned that the HGV traffic will create additional toxic emissions and noise which will have an adverse impact on the quality of the learning environment which takes place outside the school buildings for the staff members and pupils of your petitioner's school.

17. Your petitioner is also very concerned that the creation of additional toxic emissions will have an adverse impact on the health of the staff members and pupils of your petitioner's school.

18. Your petitioner requests your honourable House to require the Nominated Undertaker to re-evaluate the use of Ruislip Roads, examples of which are set out above, by HGV traffic and to prepare alternative proposals for consultation.

19. Should your honourable House not find in favour of eliminating HGV traffic from Ruislip Roads, your petitioner requests your honourable House to require the Nominated Undertaker to devise and implement a suitable noise mitigation plan and also to amend the Code of Construction Practice to strictly enforce the measures such as, but not restricted, to the following:

[a] Restricting HGV movements inside peak hours throughout Ruislip and prohibiting HGV movements near your petitioner's school for 30 minutes before and after the start and end of the school day [during term time].

[b] Ensuring that your petitioner's school community have safe access to your petitioner's school and local facilities by guaranteeing that all pedestrian crossings in the vicinity of your petitioner's school are accessible, not restricted and kept in full working order.

### **Engagement with the Nominated Undertaker**

20. Your petitioner is very concerned that the Promoter of the Bill and the Nominated Undertaker have not to date attempted to engage with your petitioner for the purpose of attempting to address and resolve your petitioner's concerns. Notwithstanding this, your petitioner remains hopeful that many of its concerns can be met by agreement with the Promoter and Nominated Undertaker.

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.

Signed:

Governor

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PETITION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF SACRED HEART  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

AGAINST, By Counsel, & c