

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.

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Parliament assembled.

THE HUMBLE PETITION of MALCOLM JAMES PRITCHARD and MARGOT WRIGLEY PRITCHARD

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 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 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 Petitioners, Malcolm and Margot Pritchard, live at Agden Lane Farm, Lymm, Cheshire WA13 0UQ and are aged 57/52 respectively. They have lived in this home for 14 years. Your Petitioners own another property next door to their home – this being Agden Lane Cottage, Agden Lane, Lymm. The properties were purchased from a family member so these properties have been in the family for over 50 years. Your petitioners' family have farmed the land around here for over 50 years. According to HS2 Ltd these 2 properties are 130m and 120m from the proposed phase 2 HS2 preferred route. As well as the proposed HS2 line, the A56 road is planned to be moved closer to Your Petitioners' properties. There will be construction traffic and possibly worker's camps destroying this rural area. Your petitioners took a lifetime decision to buy these properties to spend the rest of their life here, surrounded by family members, and inputted a lot of money of late to make the properties value increase. The value of these properties has been reduced substantially. Your petitioners do not wish to sell and do not wish to move and do not wish the upheaval in their lives. This not only affects Your Petitioners but the inheritance of their child and grandchild too.
8. Your Petitioners and their rights and properties are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing. Your petitioner is directly affected as clauses 51 and 52 give right of entry to your Petitioner's properties and the principles and decisions reached in respect of Phase 1 will set standards for the Hybrid Bill for Phase 2, where it will be substantially more difficult to challenge such arrangements.
9. The Bill includes powers for the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker to enter property within 500m of a proposed high speed line. Your petitioners strongly object to this. 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. 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.

Your Petitioners have been living with the thought of HS2 ploughing through their community, very close to their properties. This has caused sleepless nights and ruined their lives. One of your petitioners – Malcolm Pritchard – has terminal cancer. Your petitioner has worked hard all his life, running his own business, to fund their homes. These properties are part of their pension provision. There are 2 properties affected. It was Your Petitioners idea to sell the larger property and move into the smaller property when your petitioner's health took a turn for the worse. It was always Your Petitioners intention to live close to other family members. Your petitioners brother owns 2 properties next door and he too has cancer. So now there are 4 family properties affected, on the same farm address – Agden Lane Farm - by the proposed route of phase 2 HS2.

The construction work with dust, noise, pollution and years to build will be an unacceptable way for Your Petitioners to live. This will lead to extra stress levels. Your petitioner has been advised that stress is no good for his terminal cancer. Your petitioner is concerned that HS2 Ltd have not set proper noise thresholds and ignored national policy in this area and the views of the World Health Organisation. Your petitioner submits that the noise limits set for Phase 1 will determine the design parameters for rolling stock and track design which will also be used in Phase 2. Your petitioners are unhappy with the noise and visual mitigation proposals both during construction and once HS2 is built. The proposed line will be above ground on a bridge, four tracks wide, at the point where Your petitioners properties are.

Your petitioners are unhappy with the proposed compensation levels. Your Petitioner submits that the compensation provisions in relation to property that is not compulsory acquired and other matters would not be sufficient to compensate your Petitioner adequately for the loss and damage they incur as a result of the plan for Phase 2 of the high speed railway and associated development, as supported by the rights of entry for survey purposes and the increased possibility of these plans being realised if Phase 1 is approved.

Your petitioners properties are blighted.

Your petitions feel aggrieved that they have to complete a petition such as this in order to have their voice heard. Your petitioners do not get paid to complete such a task and, indeed, have to pay £20 to submit a petition.

Your petitioners are against the proposed Golborne spur of Phase 2 HS2 preferred route as this will destroy our community and ruin our homelife, our health and wellbeing and at a huge cost to the tax payer.

10. Your petitioners suggest the following:-

- Your Petitioner requests that Clauses 51 and 52 should be amended so that land can only be accessed with the landowner's and occupier's consent.
- Your Petitioner requests that the Bill should be amended to ensure your Petitioner and other persons who are injuriously affected and adversely affected by loss of value should be entitled to claim compensation for the full amount of loss incurred due to HS2. And compensation for the disruption and the way this has ruined or lives and caused stress and anxiety. The amount of compensation offered is derisory considering that allegedly HS2 will make £15billion a year extra for the economy. If this is the case, the compensation should be generous as quoted by Mr Cameron. In France, the compensation scheme is far more generous.
- The blight caused by the proposed route has restricted your petitioners life choices and a scheme should have been put in place before the proposed route was announced. The compensation scheme should pay out further than 120m from the line.
- Your petitioner is concerned that the specific impacts of ground-borne noise have not been properly considered or explained to impacted communities and the limit for ground-borne noise does not reflect recent or practice or experience and the methodology used for predicting the impact of ground-borne noise is insufficiently robust and no amelioration measures have been suggested to deal with this problem.
- Your petitioners disagree with the Golborne spur as it is a massive expense for no gain. Your petitioners suggest HS2 use and upgrade the existing west coast mainline rather than have this spur which they deem to be unnecessary.

11. For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioners respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, so far affecting your Petitioners, should not be allowed to pass into law.

12. 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

MALCOLM JAMES PRITCHARD

MARGOT WRIGLEY PRITCHARD

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