

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 CHRISTINA WANE.

SHEWETH as follows:-

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.

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.

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.

Clauses 37 to 42 of the Bill deal with the regulatory regime for the railway.

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.

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 and 3 to the Bill.

Your Petitioner is Christina Wane and lives in the London Borough of Hillingdon at No. 1 Tanrey Cottages, Hill End Road, Harefield, Middlesex. Your Petitioner has lived at the above address for the last 17 years together with my husband Peter Wane. Your Petitioner and her husband are both Senior Citizens. Your Petitioner's property is situated in the Northern part of Harefield Village. Although your Petitioner's property is not near the construction sites of the HS2 railway line, because of the surrounding road system your Petitioner will be affected by this project.

Your Petitioner's rights and interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing. Your Petitioner would like it noted that your Petitioner does not agree with the construction of High Speed Two and is of the opinion that existing railway routes should be improved. However, if HS2 goes ahead, your Petitioner suggests that, in the area of Harefield, a tunnel be constructed rather than the proposed viaduct. The reason for your Petitioner's suggestion is to minimise the impact on the ecology and to protect two worthy charities in the area, and also to reduce the traffic impact on the local roadways and Harefield Village.

Your Petitioner has an eye condition and a heart condition which means that driving is no longer possible and is therefore heavily reliant on public transport. Ironically there is no train service in Harefield. The only public transport in

Harefield is three bus routes, the 331, the U9 and the R21. The R21 is a very infrequent service and your Petitioner does not use this route. However the 331 and the U9 are the buses your Petitioner relies upon for getting to hospital appointments at Mount Vernon and Hillingdon Hospital. There are seven roads leading to Harefield, however, only three roads are suitable for buses and heavy vehicles. All the other lanes leading to Harefield have either weak bridges, are too narrow or have hairpin bends. Therefore construction traffic will only be able to use Harvil Road, Moorhall Road and Northwood Road. The route of the proposed viaduct/HS2 train is directly over Harvil Road and Moorhall Road which are also the roads used as the bus routes. Your Petitioner therefore envisages severe delays in getting to hospital appointments. Major traffic delays in Harvil Road and Moorhall Road, will inevitably back the traffic up into the centre of Harefield and could cause major traffic grid-locking. Everyone living in Harefield will be affected by the construction of the HS2 viaduct.

Your Petitioner understands that there will be 7 construction sites (depots, electricity feeders or soil waste sites) situated around Harefield which will also create additional traffic. Therefore your Petitioner requests that some of these sites be relocated away from the area, you Petitioner would also respectively suggest that a tunnel underneath Harvil Road and Moorhall Road would minimize transport delays.

Your Petitioner will also be restricted from using the public footpaths in the southern part of Harefield between Harvil Road and Moorhall Road. Your Petitioner currently walks her dog in the area along the canal towpath and the Quarry Trail beside the Hillingdon Open Activities Centre (HOAC) lake and the Denham quarry lakes. Your Petitioner understands that the construction of the viaduct could take years and therefore these public paths will not be available to your Petitioner for a considerable length of time. Your Petitioner therefore suggests that a tunnel be constructed underneath: the two roadways; the canal; HOAC lake; Denham Quarry lake and the Dogs Trust, rather than a viaduct so that it reduces the impact on this area and recreation pursuits be minimally disrupted..

Your Petitioner is also very concerned about the flora and fauna in this area. Before any construction is undertaken your Petitioner respectfully requests that a complete ecological survey be carried out before construction commences. This location has remained undisturbed for many, many years and a variety of species will inevitable have inhabited this rural area. HOAC and also the Dogs Trust are situated on the HS2 route, both these charities provide an invaluable service to the community, and construction of a viaduct would inevitably lead to the closure of

both organisations. Your Petitioner is a supporter and volunteer at the Dogs Trust therefore your Petitioner suggests that a tunnel be built to replace the proposed viaduct, thereby protecting the delicate ecological area, HOAC and Dogs Trust.

Your Petitioner objects to the powers that are proposed to be provided by the Bill for 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 their cumulative impacts on communities. Your Petitioner suggests that necessary changes from the results of that review be taken into account before works design and construction strategies have been finalised or construction contractors employed.

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

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 you Petitioner.

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 by their Counsel, Agents and witnesses in support of the allegation of this Petition against so much of the Bill as affects the property, rights and interest 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

A rectangular box with a dashed border, used to redact the signature of the petitioner.

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AGAINST, BY Counsel, &c.

