

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 AMANIA MARGARETA CLARK

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 Petitioner is Amania Margareta Clark who lives with her husband Simon John Clark and her three children Lucy(13), William (11) and George(6) at Elmslea, Old Risborough Road, Stoke Mandeville ,Bucks, HP22 5XJ. I am 37 years old and married Simon in 1976. My husband and I do not smoke, drink and have never relied on the state and Simon and I have both worked very hard to be in the position we are now with a lovely family home. We purchased Elmslea on the 15th August 2005. Previous to this we lived in Brudenell Drive for 6 years which is just up the road also in Stoke Mandeville Village so we are very much part of the Stoke Mandeville Village community. My husband is a director of his own small building company alongside his younger brother. He used to work with his father too but his father is now retired. Simon and his brother pride themselves on the quality of their work and get work by recommendation as opposed to advertising. In addition to bringing up my three children I work part time doing my husbands book keeping, 3 days a week doing admin for a lady and also twilight shifts at Waitrose. Both Simon and I have always worked very hard for what we have

which is why we feel so upset that the proposed HS2 will destroy the value of our home. All 3 of my children attended the village pre-school and then the village school. (Lucy has now moved to secondary school). Your petitioners property will not be demolished as a result of the Bill but is located within the VPZ. Our life as it is now will be catastrophically changed as we will be essentially isolated from the village and the children from all their friends that they have grown up with. My middle child William is a very severe asthmatic so we are extremely concerned about the maintenance of easy access to Stoke Mandeville hospital as he suffers very severe asthma attacks often requiring nebulisers /oxygen & stays in hospital hence why we have always chosen to live in such close proximity to the hospital. We have also done extensive major works to our property to make it suitable for William to live in ( he can't live in a carpeted property/damp conditions) so it would not be easy to find a suitable property to move to. Simon has in fact devoted the last two years to completely overhauling our property and we re-mortgaged in order to do the works. It was during this re-mortgage that the impact of the HS2 scheme first hit home as we were told by the mortgage companies valuer that our house was worthless and after a long battle with them they eventually agreed to value our home at half what we originally paid for it. I think this was only because the valuer felt sorry for us . We absolutely do not wish to move but are also concerned that if HS2 goes ahead we would find it impossible to stay where we are due to dust during construction(and the risk to William) and then potential road disruption/traffic making the route to the hospital less reliable.

8. Your Petitioner and their property Elmslea are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
9. The Bill includes powers for The Secretary Of State to undertake extensive construction works in close proximity to my family property which will create dust leading to poor air quality potentially posing a significant risk to my middle child. While I appreciate this is inevitable with a project of this scale what I AM objecting to is the inadequate compensation for my family. As it stands currently my family home sits in the Voluntary Purchase Zone( if this compensation package is adopted) but my family would not be entitled to any further costs. I cannot see why when my family may be forced from our home (if I feel my family home is not a suitable environment any longer for my son or that I feel I cannot rely on quick accessibility to Stoke Mandeville Hospital) that all the costs associated with moving should fall on my family? My family have worked really hard for what we have and my husband and I feel bitter and heartbroken. We do not rely on the state but are hardworking citizens trying to bring up our 3 children and give them the best we can. The social isolation is another factor we object to. We will

essentially be cut off from the rest of Stoke Mandeville Village and my children from all the friends they have grown up with. With the potential diversion of the A4010 to run behind our property we will be islanded between the HS2 Line and the new proposed route of the A4010. I have a young family so it is very sad that we feel our children will be cut off from the community they love and have grown up in. My youngest son was born with a prematurely fused skull (craniosynostosis) and endured a massive operation at the JR Hospital at 18 months old and it was our network of friends that helped us through. It was a hugely stressful time on my whole family but I can honestly say that we have had more sleepless nights over this proposed HS2 line than we did then.

10. Fair compensation in our case would amount to not just purchasing our property at its full value but also covering all the costs involved in us finding a similar suitable property that we could move to. It may take time for us to find a suitable property (in fact it may even necessitate us finding a plot and having a property built that is suitable for my son to live in) so we need an undertaking from HS2 Limited, the Secretary of State and/or the nominated undertaker that we will be able to have not only our property purchased at its TRUE FULL pre-HS2 value but also that they will cover the Stamp Duty and ALL moving costs for us to make a sideways move and also that we can make the move at a time that suits us. This could involve HS2 Limited undertaking to purchase our property and us being allowed to rent it back so that we can then move once the construction phase has reached the point that it is untenable for us to stay in situ.
11. With regard to the complete isolation from our community there needs to be some undertaking that we will be fairly compensated for this loss.
12. For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioner respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, so far affecting your Petitioner, should not be allowed to pass into law.
13. There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect your Petitioner and their rights, interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your 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 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



Amania Margareta Clark

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