

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

Against – on merits – Praying to be heard in Person &c.

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

THE HUMBLE PETITION of MARINA ARNOLD

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 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.
- 7.1. Your Petitioner lives in a flat on Adelaide Road, near the junction with Chalk Farm Road. Your Petitioner has lived at this property for twenty-five years, and within a six-minute walk of this address for the preceding seventeen years. Your Petitioner's property is on a residential road which will be used by a high volume of construction traffic during the construction stages of the Scheme. Your Petitioner's flat is also in an area designated for road closures during the utilities diversions and the construction stages of the Scheme. Your Petitioner's flat is also within wind-blowing distance of the proposed site of the Adelaide Road ventilation shaft, which will be relevant once the Scheme is completed and running. There are aspects of the Scheme which are currently unclear, since the dropping of the HS1 part of the Scheme, which may possibly affect your Petitioner at her home address and at her work locations.
- 7.2. Your Petitioner has worked in the Camden area for most of her working life; for the past twenty-five years she has worked on a self-employed freelance basis in the local area, almost exclusively within walking or cycling distance of her home. Your Petitioner intends to continue working on this basis as long as economic conditions allow, and then on a part-time basis to supplement her state retirement pension.
- 7.3. Your Petitioner suffers from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) in the form of emphysema in conjunction with the genetic disorder alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency. The effects your Petitioner suffers under COPD vary considerably from time to time, according to diverse factors including the level of pollution of various sorts being experienced at any time. The effects your Petitioner experiences include shortness of breath and difficulty in breathing, which result in reduced intake and absorption of oxygen, lessening her ability to walk, move about, carry out household chores and work activities, and all other normal daily activities. When your Petitioner is suffering an exacerbation she is extremely unwell for that period of time (which can vary from days to weeks). All these adverse symptoms are increasing over time, and will in time result in your Petitioner being unable to resist the designation "Disabled".
8. Your Petitioner and her interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons, amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
- 9.1. Your Petitioner is concerned about the dust that will be created by the works at every stage of the Scheme: utilities diversions, construction stages, operation &c. This dust includes the dust from digging, drilling, building, et cetera, and is often referred to as particulate matter. This dust becomes airborne; travels in the air, settles, and becomes airborne again many times, and consequently travels great distances. Your Petitioner is particularly concerned about the amount of this particulate dust that she will breathe in throughout the ten-plus years of construction of the Scheme; the damage this will do to her lungs and to her health generally, and the consequent loss of ability to enjoy her life. Your Petitioner is concerned that as a consequence of this airborne particulate dust she will suffer an increase in number and severity of "exacerbations" which will decrease her

lung function on both a short term and a long term basis. Your Petitioner is concerned that over the ten-plus years of construction and preparations for construction of this Scheme your Petitioner's quality of life will be seriously reduced by virtue of her reduced lung capacity. In effect, your Petitioner will die earlier and live a less enjoyable and less productive life as a result of the Scheme.

- 9.2. Your Petitioner is additionally concerned about the particulate dust that will be created by, agitated by, and dropped by the vehicles carrying materials to the work sites and carrying spoil away from the sites.
- 9.3. Your Petitioner is concerned that the huge number of vehicles carrying personnel, materials and spoil to and from sites of operation during the Scheme will increase exponentially the volume of all types of air pollution, including nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter. Your Petitioner is worried that the increased vehicular activity in the area where she lives, works, and partakes in leisure activities will increase the pollutant emissions which will exacerbate all the aspects of her COPD, as previously described.
- 9.4. Your Petitioner is concerned about the adverse effects that all these and other types of pollution caused by all and any aspects of the Scheme and the works involved in it as well as the operation of the railway once the Scheme is fully functional will have on her life.
- 9.5. Your Petitioner is concerned that the increased noise levels in the area, caused by the works themselves and the vehicles supplying and removing materials and spoil from the work areas will be both distressing and stressful, causing a decreased quality of life as well as impacting on her health by reducing her ability to sleep sufficiently ~ which itself will increase the adverse effects on her lung health.
- 9.6. It is proposed that Adelaide Road will be closed for four months during the construction of the ventilation shaft, as well as a further four months at a separate time. It is also proposed that when Adelaide Road is open to traffic it will much of the time operate an alternate shuttle system. Your Petitioner is concerned that during this time access to work, leisure, and emergency facilities will be curtailed ~ as previously stated your Petitioner lives on Adelaide Road so this will impact her life particularly. Your Petitioner is also concerned that this will lengthen the response times of emergency service vehicles to accidents and other health and safety call-outs.
- 9.7. Your Petitioner is concerned that in the unlikely event that she survives the ten-plus years of the construction stages of the Scheme, the emissions from the ventilation shaft and from the railway itself will adversely affect her health, as described herein.
- 9.8. Your Petitioner is concerned that the simple operation of railway engines and trains within the tunnel, and the venting of all the pollution caused, will significantly reduce the surrounding air quality and also exacerbate her COPD.
- 9.9. Your Petitioner is concerned that the noise and vibrations from the moving trains will cause loss of enjoyment of her life, as well as loss of sleep and thus depleted health and ability to enjoy her life.

- 9.10. Your Petitioner is concerned that when there are fires in the tunnel, as is inevitable with a working railway, the fumes from such fires will pour into the local area reducing air quality significantly and also exacerbating her COPD.
- 9.11. Your Petitioner is concerned that in the case of a serious fire within the tunnel, there will be considerable danger to the people and wildlife in the neighbouring area and significant risk of loss of life.
- 9.12. Your Petitioner is concerned that the Scheme will involve the felling of trees within the local area, which will reduce quality of life visually by the loss of those trees, as well as by decreasing the air quality due to the reduction in air-filtering properties of those trees.
- 9.13. Your Petitioner is concerned that for the ten-plus years of construction &c there will be a negative impact on the amenities of the local area: the historically and hugely-used open space of Primrose Hill, the cultural activities of the Chalk Farm area, and much more.
- 9.14. Your Petitioner is concerned that the adverse effects, the noise and pollution, will discourage visitors to the area and so reduce the vibrancy as well as business successes.
- 10.1 Your Petitioner requires that the Select Committee and/or the honourable House takes every possible measure to ensure that all these negative effects, those mentioned as well as those omitted due to any lack in your Petitioner's personal and scientific knowledge, are minimised to the best possible standards of modern methods. Your Petitioner requires that the Select Committee and/or the honourable House take the stance that all emissions should be reduced, curtailed, and contained at source, rather than that they should be allowed to escape and then excluded and/or removed from the surrounding areas: streets, parks, homes, places of business, et cetera. Your Petitioner requires that the Select Committee and/or the honourable House use all available and possible methods to facilitate this, including copious and effective monitoring and measuring by modern methods, and by imposing heavy fines and penalties on the relevant companies and organisations, and individuals within them, such that those companies and organisations and individuals do not simply "factor in the costs of fines et cetera", ie accept them as a cost to be borne rather than a serious deterrent that must be strictly observed.
- 10.2 Your Petitioner requires that the Select Committee and/or the honourable House familiarise itself with the adverse effects that this type of particulate dust and pollution has on sufferers of COPD. This is a disease which not only affects your Petitioner, but is predicted to become the number two cause of all deaths in the UK by the year 2020. Your Petitioner asks this so that you understand the difficulties actually experienced by herself and her fellow sufferers, as it would appear to be popular and even official opinion that the level of pollution and emissions caused by the currently proposed works on this Scheme will have "little effect" on health.
- 10.3 Your Petitioner requires that the Select Committee and/or the honourable House require the Nominated Undertaker and any body working on the Scheme to use the most modern methods available to reduce the dust and pollution in any and all forms during the duration of the Scheme, the construction works and all that that

entails, as well as the running of the railway in due course. This should include, for example, the use of low emission vehicles. Your Petitioner requires that the Select Committee include every aspect of the Scheme, including the utilities works, the traffic providing materials to the work sites and removing spoil from them, and everything else whether your Petitioner is able to think of it now or sufficiently describe it or not.

- 10.4 Your Petitioner requires that the Select Committee and/or the honourable House consider the delivery of materials by rail rather than road transport wherever possible, and unless there are serious reasons to suggest otherwise ensure that this method is used for all delivery of materials and removal of spoil.
- 10.5 Your Petitioner requires that the Select Committee and/or the honourable House ensure that all monitoring methods are in place at all times, and are capability of being contributed to by members of the public, and that the consequences of discovery by the monitoring system of any breaches to the standards should be attended to in the very-short term rather than, having been discovered, those breaches be left in place while some long and complicated process is undertaken.
- 10.6 Your Petitioner requires that the Select Committee and/or the honourable House cause trees to be planted in the surrounding area, firstly to replace those that are felled within the Scheme, and secondly to additionally improve the air quality in the local area by dint of the ability of living trees to function as air filters.
- 10.7 Your Petitioner requires that the Select Committee and/or the honourable House to consider the ten-plus years of upheaval and destruction to the life and amenities of residents in this local area, as well as the long-term increase in air pollution and noise pollution et cetera, when placing a value on the long term efficacy of the Scheme and thus the amount of disruption it should be allowed to cause.
- 10.8 Your Petitioner requires that the Select Committee and/or the honourable House is requested to take into account all matters raised in this petition, and to use its best endeavours to ensure that noise and vibrations are kept to a minimum level, both during ten-plus years of the works as well as the operation of the railway.
- 10.9 Your Petitioner requires that the Select Committee and/or the honourable House consider the aspects of access for pedestrians and also and particularly for emergency vehicles; consider the matter of fire and how its likelihood can be reduced during the works.
- 10.10 Your Petitioner requires that the Select Committee and/or the honourable House consider the impact of the works on local business and amenities, and on local inhabitants to earn a living during the term of the works.
- 10.11 Your Petitioner requires that the Select Committee and/or the honourable House give undertakings and assurances in respect of all these matters.
11. 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 PETITIONER therefore humbly prays your honourable House that the Bill may not be allowed to pass into law as it now stands and that they may heard by herself 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 her 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 Marina Arnold ...



IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013–14

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AGAINST – ON MERITS – PRAYING
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