

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 JOANNE VOAS & DAVID VOAS

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(s) are the owner of the property "Kingposts" Radmore Lane, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire, WS15 3AT. We have lived at this address since November 2011, having relocated from the village of Alrewas, which is adjacent to the A38, in part as a desire to enjoy a rural environment with reduced noise levels.
8. Your Petitioner(s) and their rights, interests and/or property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner(s) object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
9. The Bill includes powers for the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker to do construction works which are estimated to take 10 years to complete. The construction works will require development of construction camps and lorry movements to and from works in areas already congested with road traffic, with a reduction in the environmental quality, for example increased noise, creation of dust, 24 hour working and loss of landscape visual appeal . Once built the environment and therefore the lives of your petitioners will be severely impacted in terms of increased noise and loss of landscape visual appeal. This will lead to severe mental anguish and suffering to Joanne Voas, who already suffers from tinnitus. Journey times by road south of the petitioner(s) property will be impacted by the proposed plans to alter road junctions or provide permanent alternative routes.

10. Your Petitioner(s) 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 construction strategy for the project and its related works and the intended operation of the trains to include:

- Restricting construction traffic movements to periods outside peak travel times, for example between the hours of 09:30 to 15:00 and 19:00 to 05:00 only
- Prioritise resources during design and construction of road alterations or new roads, such that journey times are not increased by more than 5 minutes
- Improvements to local rail services, such that they can be considered as viable alternatives to road travel
- A further reduction in train speed to minimise the environmental impact in terms of noise, vibration and energy or carbon footprint
- Inclusion of visual improvement measures, for example natural screening, to limit the unpleasant sight of construction camps, works and spoil heaps
- Inclusion of time bound plans to address how construction spoil will be disposed of

11. For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioner(s) respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, so far affecting your Petitioner(s), 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 Petitioner(s) and their rights, interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioner(s).

YOUR PETITIONER(S) 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(s) 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(s) in the premises as your Honourable House shall deem meet.

AND your Petitioner(s) will ever pray, &c.

Signed

JOANNE VOAS

DAVID VOAS



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Against the Bill – On Merits – By Counsel &c

Name: Joanne & David Voas

e-mail address: _____