

PETITION AGAINST A PRIVATE BILL

IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE OF COMMONS SESSION 2013–14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

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 MARGARET CONLON and JOHN CONLON

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. My name is Mrs Margaret Conlon. I am a pensioner. I live upstairs above my small family business together with my son John Conlon. Together we are 'Your Petitioners'. Your Petitioners are directly affected by the High Speed Rail (London-West Midlands) Bill.

Your Petitioners live above our business premise at upper flat 94, Parkway, Camden Town, London, NW1 7AN. It is our main the family home. This is our 40th Year residing above this public house. John Arrived here at 4 years old, She schooled in Camden Town and is now working at the family business aged 44 years.

HS2 threatens cultural damage to Camden Town's identity. We have lived here, worked here and prayed here for the last 40 years. Margaret only ventures outside of Camden Town to visit the grave of her husband each week. I respectfully request that you help us preserve this neighbourhoods heritage and unique feel and atmosphere.

Your Petitioners property will not be demolished as a result of the Bill but it is located less than 200m from the railway lines. Your Petitioners property is also on a shared residential and commercial road.

This road, where we live, Parkway, is a proposed HS2 construction traffic route.

The road in which our property is located upon is earmarked as 'Land potentially required during construction'.

8. Your Petitioners and their interests are injuriously

affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners 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 and will include lorry movements, the creation of dust and noise, poor air quality, and 24 hour working,

We fear the destruction of our community which we have enjoyed and grown fonder of over our 40 year here.

Our quality of life will suffer due to:-

Increased noise from traffic and construction - The Environmental Statement states that construction traffic is "likely to cause significant noise effects on adjacent residential and non-residential receptors". Residents and businesses attracting customers should be respected.

Our quality of sleep will deteriorate if there is excessive road traffic day and night. We also fear that we may breath in even more pollution than present levels due to the additional estimated 200 construction lorries per day.

10. The noise will inevitably lead to our severe sleep deprivation as residents. In any event, night-time working for these utilities works should not be permitted under any circumstances.

This construction work and increased traffic pollution will also lead to severe health concerns such as asthma and respiratory problems.

Parkway is a tree-lined boulevard which leads up to Regent's Park.

Parkway is an attractive street to visit and to eat and drink upon in its many bars and restaurants.

For our family home above our established small business HS2 construction will be devastating. Camden Town is due to become one enormous building site. Once regular tourists decide to visit other places they'll probably stay away. It's likely that the feeling of Camden Town and my neighbourhood will never return to the one that we have grown to love. Full details of the HS2 impact upon Camden Town and Parkway are yet to be released. It is difficult for your Petitioners to specify and pin-point certain concerns.

Your Petitioners reasonably request therefore to be permitted to review this Petition once all of the details have been released.

The quality of our day to day family life will suffer due to:-

The Use of Parkway by construction traffic – There shall be a major adverse effect of increased traffic delays caused by construction traffic in Parkway. It should be noted that Parkway already experiences significant traffic delays due to road narrowing from 4 to 2 lanes at Britannia Junction. This already has a major detrimental effect on all traffic including emergency vehicles.

Alternative routes for construction traffic should be investigated. Where possible construction materials should be carried by rail. The use of the Parkway to Britannia Junction route should be avoided.

Increases in traffic volumes and resulting vibration will cause damage to our building – HS2 predicts increases in local traffic volumes of up to 30%. Local roads including Parkway of which our building is located upon are early Victorian. Settlement deeds should be put into place prior to

construction of HS2 and buildings surveyed again after HS2 is completed so that any damage may be noted. This damage and inconvenience to normal day to day living must be compensated for.

Your Petitioners property was not designed to be exposed to the type of construction traffic required by HS2 and so the use of the road by construction traffic should not be permitted.

The railway companies, in the past, have promoted Freight rail. We request that the spoils and debris should therefore be taken from the construction area by rail.

Diversion of Utilities – Parkway has been identified as one street that “may” be used for the “diversion of utilities”. Clarification of these works has not been provided and should be forthcoming. Where disruption to Parkway may be caused by the diversion of utilities this should be avoided and only allowed where other alternatives have been fully explored and rationally discounted. In any event, night-time working for these utilities works should not be permitted under any circumstances. We will be unable to have a reasonable quality of life if the utilities are postponed or interrupted. Health and Safety concerns will arise if a diversion takes place. We request a continuous supply of the utilities which we currently enjoy and which we have had supplied for the last 40 years.

The continuous supply of utilities is essential to maintain an acceptable standard of living.

Project materials should be confined to rail delivery. If construction traffic is permitted to use Parkway, then HS2 should undertake to monitor all properties prior to construction and offer proper compensation to property

owners for any repairs made necessary by vibration damage. In any event there should be a no night-time (18.00-08.00) construction traffic in Parkway.

The compensation proposed for residents by HS2 Ltd is entirely inadequate. It is essential that residents are fully compensated by HS2 for all impacts of the scheme. Residents forced to re-locate must be compensated in advance of moving. The comprehensive compensation package should cover residents living both within and outside of the safeguarding area, should include full compensation for the loss of quality of life, inconvenience of moving, moving costs, for stress endured and compensation to the Council for lost Council Tax .

There should be assistance to residents to help achieve a reduction in the Council Tax as soon as HS2 Ltd commence construction.

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 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 Petitioner in the premises as your Honourable House shall

deem meet.

(Signed) MARGARET CONLON

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(Signed) JOHN CONLON

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SESSION 2013-14

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AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

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