

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 [in Person] [by Agent] [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 SILVIA RANAWAKE

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. Your Petitioner is a Professor Emeritus of German of the University of London, age 76. She has been living at 18 Fitzroy Road London NW1 8TX since 1968 and is its sole owner. She shares the property with two tenants who occupy the topfloor and the basement, both converted into single occupancy studios whilst sharing the main main entrance, stairs and garden. Your Petitioner's property will not be demolished as a result of the Bill but it is located within 125m of the HS2 cutting with its retaining wall that has to be rebuilt, within 20m of the section of Fitzroy Road and Gloucester Avenue potentially required during construction and within 70m of the depot proposed to be located in Chalcot Road. Major roadworks are proposed to replace or realign services such as sewage and electricity in neighbouring streets (Princess Road and Chalcot Square).
8. Your Petitioner and her tenants and their interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
9. Quality of Life: The Bill includes powers for the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker to undertake works of construction which are estimated to take 10 years to complete and will include lorry

movements, creation of dust and noise, poor air quality, and 24 hour working leading to severe sleep deprivation. Your Petitioner is still research-active and her two tenants are in the main single freelance professionals working from home who have chosen to rent in this location for the quiet necessary to concentrate on their work. The works of construction as proposed will severely impact on the ability of residents to work in this location and will constitute a massive deterioration in the quality of life.

Health: The effect of dust, noise, pollution, and 24 hour working raise considerable health concerns, especially for your Petitioner who, according to her cardiologist, is at significant stroke risk from persistent atrial fibrillation and antiphospholipid syndrome. Access to University College Hospital in an emergency will be compromised by road closure and construction traffic. The Environmental Statement also fails to recognize the cumulative impact which the works and associated traffic and road problems will have on the air pollution in the area which is already twice the E.U. legal limit. Of particular concern to your Petitioner as a grandmother of four grandchildren, two of whom are already affected by asthma, is the impact of air pollution caused by construction work and construction traffic on pupils in local schools close to construction activities and construction traffic routes

Compensation: I am relying on the value of my property to finance care in the years to come. Blight by the HS2 scheme is already affecting this value. Considering also the severe impairment of quality of life and health concerns the proposed arrangements for compensation if any are unfair and inadequate.

10. Your Petitioner objects to the powers that are proposed to be provided by the Bill to the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker and respectfully submit that the Bill should be amended or undertakings should be required to be given 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 activities by putting weight on their cumulative impacts on area communities, and come forward with necessary changes arising from that review before works packages design and tendering strategies have been finalised.

11. 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, interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioner.

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 she may be 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 SILVIA RANAWAKE