

# **SAMPLE PETITION GUIDE FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**THE COUNCIL HAS PRODUCED A SAMPLE PETITION TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH AN EXAMPLE OF A WRITTEN PETITION THAT COULD BE USED AS A BASE TO DRAFT THEIR OWN SUBMISSION.**

**THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE TAKEN AS LEGAL ADVICE NOR A REQUIREMENT OF HOW A PETITION MUST BE DRAFTED BUT IS MERELY A BEGINNING POINT FOR THOSE CONSIDERING SUBMITTING A PETITION TO GET THEIR OWN DRAFTING STARTED.**

**THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE AFFECTED BY THE HS2 SCHEME SHOULD DETAIL THEIR OWN EXPERIENCES, CONCERNS AND ISSUES WITH THE SCHEME IN THEIR PETITION AND SHOULD LIMIT THEMSELVES TO THE EXAMPLES GIVEN FOR THE SAKE OF CLARITY IN THIS DOCUMENT.**

## PETITION AGAINST A PRIVATE BILL: EXAMPLE

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 [ENTER YOUR NAME HERE IN CAPITAL LETTERS]  
EG  
THE HUMBLE PEITION of JANE AND JOHN SMITH

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. [In this paragraph you should introduce yourself, describe yourself as 'Your Petitioner' or if you are a couple or a group 'Your Petitioners'. You should include your address and any details about where you live, e.g. how long you've lived there, who else lives with you e.g. young children, if you are a carer etc – don't make it too lengthy, but enough to give the Select Committee a picture of you and how the HS2 scheme may affect your life. For example, as part of this paragraph you could say (if it is true) "Your Petitioner's property will not be demolished as a result of the Bill but it is located within [X] metres of the blocks that are proposed to be demolished and will therefore be next door and overlooking one of the HS2 construction sites. Your Petitioners' property is also on a residential road which will be used by construction traffic during the construction of the Scheme".]

**Comment [ML1]:** Set out your own personal details and circumstances

8. Your Petitioners and their interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

9. [In this paragraph you should set out what it is about the scheme that you do not like, what the impact will be on your life and how it will affect you. For example you could say something like: "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. This will inevitably lead to severe sleep deprivation for my elderly mother and considerable health concerns as two of my children already have

asthma and respiratory problems”. Set out each of your issues/concerns in this section of your petition, using a separate paragraph for each issue.]

**Comment [ML2]:** Explain what it is about the HS2 scheme that is an issue for you and why

10. [Finally, in this section you need to set out what it is that you want the Select Committee to do about the issue that you have raised. You could say something like: “Your Petitioners object 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 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 by considering their cumulative impacts on communities. And they need to suggest necessary changes from the results of that review before works design and construction strategies have been finalised or construction contractors employed.]

**Comment [ML3]:** Let the Select Committee know what it is that you would like done about your issue – what is it that could overcome the concerns you have with the scheme

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.

AND your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Signed Jane Smith .....

Signed John Smith .....

**Comment [ML4]:** This is a style point, but important! This wording must all be on the same page, preferably with at least a bit of the paragraph before it.

IN PARLIAMENT  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
SESSION 2013–14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON -  
WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION OF JANE DOE and JOHN DOE  
AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

Name and address