

Appellants	Challenge	Court of Appeal's Judgment	Extract from Judgment	What this means for HS2
<p>HS2 Action Alliance Ltd; London Borough of Hillingdon</p>	<p>The claim that the government was required to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the European 'SEA Directive', and had failed to do so before making safeguarding directions to protect the route of the planned HS2 railway.</p>	<p><u>The Appellants' claim against Secretary of State for Transport and High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd is dismissed</u></p> <p>The safeguarding directions do not set the framework for development consent for projects within the HS2 safeguarding zone. In turn, no SEA was required before making the safeguarding directions. The Court of Appeal supported the earlier decision of the High Court.</p>	<p><i>"I accept [the Government's] submissions. [The High Court's] conclusion that the Directions do not set the framework for development consent for projects, including EIA projects, within the safeguarded zone was correct....The Appellants' submission is flawed because it looks at only part, rather than the entirety, of the decision making process for development consent within the safeguarded zone....."</i></p> <p><i>"...it is not realistic [for the Appellant's] to describe the Directions.....as some form of "plan or programme" in their own right."</i></p>	<p><u>HS2 programme continues as planned.</u></p> <p>This judgment confirms once again that we are on the right track with HS2.</p> <p>HS2 is a vital part of our long-term economic plan. By improving connectivity, freeing up space on our existing network, boosting local skills, generating tens of thousands of jobs and helping rebalance our economy, it will have a transformational effect on the UK and secure the country's future prosperity. We are building on the best practice shown in HS1, the Olympics and Crossrail to minimise environmental impact during construction.</p> <p>The Government is determined to minimise the environmental impacts that go with a major infrastructure project of this kind. HS2 Ltd has committed to limit noise impacts, to plant 4 million trees, to link important habitats together and seek to achieve no net loss to biodiversity.</p> <p>The new network will see millions of air and road trips move to rail, reducing carbon emissions and congestion, and the space it will create for freight will move hundreds of HGVs per hour off the roads.</p>