

## HIGH SPEED RAIL (WEST MIDLANDS – CREWE) BILL

### UPDATE

In July the Government introduced a hybrid Bill to Parliament to seek powers for the construction and operation of Phase 2a of HS2. The Bill was accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES) describing the likely significant effects of the scheme on the environment.

#### ES consultation response report

A consultation on the ES was undertaken following introduction of the Bill. A summary of issues raised in responses to the consultation has now been produced by Parliament's independent assessor to inform Members of Parliament (MPs) ahead of the Second Reading debate on the Bill. A copy of the summary report can be found at <https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-private-bill-office/2017-19/HS2-Phase-2a-Independent-Assessor-Report-171120.pdf> and copies of the consultation responses themselves can be found at <https://www.hs2phase2abill.co.uk/>.

#### Second Reading

The next step for the Bill is Second Reading. At Second Reading the principle of the Bill is debated by MPs, including the need for the scheme. Second Reading establishes the principle of the Bill and the need for the scheme. Anyone is free to lobby their MP in the normal way in advance of the Second Reading debate.

At Second Reading, a Select Committee is appointed to hear petitions against the Bill. Second Reading is then followed by a petitioning period during which those whose property or interests are specially and directly affected by the Bill can submit a petition, or objection, against it.

**On 18 January the Leader of the House announced in her regular Thursday business statement that Second Reading of the Phase 2a Bill is part of the provisional business planned for 30 January. The date will be confirmed in the Leader's announcement next Thursday.**

#### Select Committee

In the House of Commons, Select Committee members are MPs who have no constituency interest in the Bill.

#### Petitioning

A petition is a summary of objections to particular aspects of the Bill. It is a request to the House of Commons for the petitioner to be allowed to argue their case before the Select Committee. The Select Committee may not hear petitions which seek to challenge the principle of the Bill, as that principle will have been established at Second Reading.

Full advice and guidance on petitioning, including advice on how to know if you are directly and specially affected, can be found at <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/high-speed-rail-west-midlands-crewe-bill-select-committee-commons/>.

### Right to appear before the Select Committee

If you submit a petition and the Government believe that your property or interests are not specially and directly affected, they can challenge your right to have your petition considered by the Select Committee. In such cases, you would be informed of the challenge in advance, and both you and the Government would have the opportunity to explain to the Select Committee why they felt that the petition should or should not be considered. The decision on whether they will consider the petition or not is for the Select Committee themselves. Any such challenges are normally taken at the start of or early on in the Select Committee proceedings.

### Likely Select Committee timetable

HS2 Phase 2a Information Paper B10: Hybrid Bill Process explains the Bill process and likely timetable. It is a matter for the Select Committee themselves, but we would expect the Select Committee to start in mid/late March 2018.

### Further information

Further information on the Bill and ES, as well as copies of other supporting information such as the Environmental Minimum Requirements (which include the draft Code of Construction Practice) and the HS2 Phase 2a Information Papers, can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/high-speed-rail-west-midlands-to-crewe-bill#the-bill>.

The HS2 Phase 2a Guide for Farmers and Growers, which sets out HS2 Ltd's proposed approach to handling agricultural property matters, can be found at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/640549/hs2\\_phase\\_2a\\_farmers\\_and\\_growers\\_guide.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/640549/hs2_phase_2a_farmers_and_growers_guide.pdf).

The first draft of the Phase 2a Register of Undertakings & Assurances – the document that will record all the undertakings and assurances given during the passage of the Bill – is expected to be published shortly after Second Reading.