

EH Subgroup Minutes

Meeting date	Thursday 8 th August 2024, 14:30 to 16:30
Meeting location	Microsoft Teams
Meeting title	Environmental Health (EH) Subgroup Meeting #52
HS2 contact or group	planning.forum@hs2.org.uk
Stakeholder	Environmental Health Subgroup to Planning Forum

External Attendees

Independent Chair

Independent Planning Forum Chair

Director – RWDI

Acoustic Consultant – RWDI

Nominated Undertaker Attendees

Air Quality Manager – HS2 Ltd

Environment Graduate – HS2 Ltd

Head of Carbon and Climate Change – HS2 Ltd

Noise Assessment Specialist – HS2 Ltd

Noise Assessment Specialist (Construction) – HS2 Ltd

Senior Public Response Manager – HS2 Ltd

EH Attendees

Buckinghamshire Council (BC)

Cherwell District Council (CDC)

London Borough of Brent (LBB)

London Borough of Camden (LBC)

London Borough of Camden (LBC)

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF)

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF)

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)

Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

Apologies

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)

Westminster City Council (WCC)

Item 1 – Chairman’s Introduction and Apologies

The Chair called the meeting to order and provided an overview of the meeting etiquette. The Chair welcomed attendees and asked for introductions to be made in the chat function. Apologies were shared by the Chair. The meeting was recorded to aid with minute taking, attendees were notified.

Item 2 - Review of Minutes from Previous Meeting

A review of the March 2024 meeting minutes was undertaken. There were no further comments and the meeting minutes for March 2024 were agreed.

Item 3 – Managing Effects from Ground-borne Noise and Vibration

A technical presentation on managing the effects from ground-borne noise and vibration during construction of the HS2 Chiltern tunnels was given by RWDI.

Questions/Comments:

(Q) LBC: Is attended or unattended monitoring more useful? Is noise or vibration more useful to measure?

(A) RWDI: Both types of monitoring are necessary, and both noise and vibration need to be measured.

(Q) BC: Why were complaints only received during the construction of the cross passages?

(A) RWDI: It is likely that complaints were only received during this period were linked to the tool used to construct cross passages, which is smaller than for regular tunnels, therefore the energy is more concentrated, plus works are concentrated in a single area.

(Q) Chair: Why were recorded noise levels higher on the ground floors than the first floors?

(A) RWDI: The ground floor is closer to the source of noise. Noise levels can vary depending on the building and foundation type.

Item 4 – Update from the HS2 Helpdesk

HS2’s Senior Public Response Manager provided an update on the enquiries that the HS2 Helpdesk has received over the past year.

Questions/Comments:

(Q) BC: How many complaints have been referred to the Independent Construction Commissioner?

(A) HS2 Senior Public Response Manager: To date, 3 complaints have been referred to the Construction Commissioner. Most complaints are resolved at the first point of contact.

(Q) BC: Has any analysis been done on the types of complaints received?

(A) HS2 Senior Public Response Manager: Analysis has been done on complaint types and the times at which they were received, which can be shared with the group, if of interest.

(Q) Chair: Does the Helpdesk do customer satisfaction surveys?

(A) HS2 Senior Public Response Manager: The Helpdesk has CSATs (Customer Satisfaction Scores) for every enquiry that is received.

Item 5 – Project Updates

An update on the HS2 programme was provided by HS2's Head of Carbon and Climate Change, which included information on the appointment of HS2 Ltd's new CEO and the publication of the Annual Report and Accounts.

A general update of Phase One construction works and highlights of the latest press releases from across the programme were provided by HS2's Environment Graduate.

Item 6 – Other Updates

The Planning Forum Chair provided a Planning Forum update. Standing items were discussed including updates to Planning Forum Notes and part decisions by Local Authorities.

Item 7 – Ongoing Construction and Section 61 Experience

LBHF raised the issue of complaints being received about diesel fumes from a generator. HS2's Air Quality Manager confirmed that an investigation would be carried out and a response provided.

Post meeting note: Discussions held separately with LBHF, and the generator has now been relocated further from residents, and replaced with a cleaner option to reduce emissions.

BC raised the issue of the upcoming rail systems handover and contractors' associated out of hours work. HS2's Head of Carbon and Climate Change confirmed that a programme overview would be provided with the group.

Item 8 – Action Log / Forward Plan / AOB

The Chair reviewed the action log, which has been updated to reflect items that remain open and those which are now closed.

HS2's Head of Carbon and Climate Change noted that Defra are running a study on construction noise assessment, which may be of interest to Local Authorities.

HS2's Head of Carbon and Climate Change provided an overview of the HS2 Learning Legacy Live event and confirmed that further information could be provided.

The Chair closed the meeting.