

# EH Subgroup Minutes

<b>Meeting date</b>	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, 14:30 to 16:00
<b>Meeting location</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Meeting title</b>	Environmental Health (EH) Subgroup Meeting #56
<b>HS2 contact or group</b>	<a href="mailto:planning.forum@hs2.org.uk">planning.forum@hs2.org.uk</a>
<b>Stakeholder</b>	Environmental Health Subgroup to Planning Forum

## External Attendees

Independent Chair

Planning Forum Chair

Senior Lecturer – Imperial College London

## Nominated Undertaker Attendees

Air Quality Manager – HS2 Ltd

Environment Graduate – HS2 Ltd

Head of Noise Assessment – HS2 Ltd

Noise and Vibration Manager – HS2 Ltd

## EH Attendees

Birmingham City Council (BCC)

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 Ealing (LBE)

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF)

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF)

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)

Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC)

### **Apologies**

Head of Carbon and Climate Change – HS2 Ltd

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Staffordshire County Council

Three Rivers District Council

### **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 February 2025 meeting minutes was undertaken.

There were no further comments and the meeting minutes for February 2025 were agreed.

### **Item 3 – Camden Health Impact Study**

Imperial College London’s Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Environmental Policy provided an update on the results of the Camden Health Impact Study.

#### **Questions/Comments:**

(Q) BC: Have the results been adjusted for demographic variables, for example income and education?

(A) Imperial College: Yes, adjustments were made to take the proportion of respondents from certain demographic groups into account.

(Q) LBC: What is the next step for this project?

(A) HS2 Noise and Vibration Manager: The study was done to enable us to discharge an assurance for Camden Council. Imperial will send their data and findings to HS2, and we will then undertake further studies to allow us to discharge the assurance.

(Q) LBC: Would you get different results if you were to do this research outside of Camden which is already a busy and polluted area?

(A) Imperial College: Potentially – although the most important factor is the overall change in noise and pollution from the baseline.

(Q) LBE: What was the study’s sample size in relation to the total population of the area?

(A) HS2 Noise and Vibration Manager: The surveys were distributed to every other household in the area – approximately 15,000 properties in both the control and exposed areas. The first survey had 208 respondents and the second had 529 respondents.

(Q) LBE: Communication we receive from residents about their health tells a different story about the impacts of HS2 construction. There may be differences in self-reported health issues and 'real' health issues.

(A) Imperial College: Although this study didn't find any statistically significant evidence of HS2 construction on health outcomes, the reality of how people feel is important and should also be taken into consideration.

#### **Item 4 – Prolonged Disruption Compensation Scheme**

HS2's Noise and Vibration Manager provided an update on the Prolonged Disruption Compensation Scheme (PDCS) Review.

#### **Questions/Comments:**

(Q) Chair: How many properties have qualified for the PDCS?

(A) HS2 Noise and Vibration Manager: A total of 2 properties qualified for the PDCS to date.

LBE queried the use of noise as a single proxy to account for the effects of other impacts.

(A) HS2 Noise and Vibration Manager: Noise has been used as a proxy for disturbance as it is readily quantifiable against the construction activities occurring. However, it is acknowledged that only using a single proxy potentially disadvantages those who experience multiple types of disturbance and therefore does not deal with the cumulative impacts effectively particularly where an individual is not affected by noise. To account for this we've made changes to the scheme so that we can provide additional support to individuals who experience disturbance from our works.

(Q) Planning Forum Chair: How has this changed from the previous PDCS?

(A) HS2 Noise and Vibration Manager: Originally HS2 contractors would undertake eligibility predictions and contact affected individuals through their community engagement teams. Individuals are now able to contact HS2 directly with concerns. Where it is not possible to implement further on-site control or mitigation measures can be applied then this change would allow us to consider the impacts and offer mitigation. Any mitigation measures which may be offered however will be done so on a case-by-case basis and reflect the individual circumstances of each case.

(Q) Chair: What are the next steps for the PDCS?

(A) HS2 Noise and Vibration Manager: The documentation and PDCS policy are currently being updated to reflect the changes. A high-level overview of the review will then be published with conclusions and recommendations.

### **Item 5 – Project Updates**

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**

HS2's Head of Noise Assessment and the Planning Forum Chair provided a Planning Forum update. Items discussed included a report on consents performance and appeals update, ongoing reviews of site restoration schemes and Planning Forum Note #11, and an update on the Judicial Review.

LBE provided an update on the latest Joint Regulators Forum. Items discussed included Service Level Agreements, Chromium VI, and HS2's management of on-site risks.

### **Item 7 – Ongoing Construction and Section 61 Experience**

No discussion was had.

### **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.

The Chair closed the meeting.