

EH Subgroup Minutes

Meeting date	Thursday 27 th Nov 2025, 14:30 to 16:00
Meeting location	Microsoft Teams
Meeting title	Environmental Health (EH) Subgroup Meeting #60
HS2 contact or group	planning.forum@hs2.org.uk
Stakeholder	Environmental Health Subgroup to Planning Forum

External Attendees

Independent Chair

Independent HS2 Commissioner

Planning Forum Chair

CEO of Oaktec Technologies Ltd (Item 9 only)

Nominated Undertaker Attendees

Air Quality Manager – HS2 Ltd

Environment Graduate – HS2 Ltd

Head of Noise Assessment – HS2 Ltd

Noise Assessment Specialist – HS2 Ltd

Senior Public Response Manager – HS2 Ltd (Item 6 only)

EH Attendees

Buckinghamshire Council (BC)

Westminster City Council (WCC)

London Borough of Ealing (LBE)

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC)

Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF)

London Borough of Camden (LBC)

London Borough of Camden (LBC)

London Borough of Ealing (LBE)

Cherwell District Council (CDC)

Apologies

Noise and Vibration Manager – HS2 Ltd

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)

Birmingham City Council (BCC)

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 September 2025 meeting minutes was undertaken. Independent Chair asked if there were plans for HS2 contractors to speak to Local Authorities other than Buckinghamshire about updated operation noise assessments. Head of Noise Assessment Confirmed this would be the case and that the programme would be led by Schedule 17 activities, but specific timings of this engagement were not available. There were no further comments and the meeting minutes for September 2025 were agreed.

Item 3 - Independent HS2 Commissioner

The Independent HS2 commissioner spoke briefly about his role which involves holding HS2 Ltd and the Department for Transport (DfT) accountable to their commitments to treat those people directly affected by the HS2 scheme with sensitivity and respect.

Questions/Comments:

The Independent Chair pointed out that the main issues covered by the EHSG included noise (construction and operation) and air quality, but also other issues such as site lighting had been raised by the Independent HS2 construction commissioner.

London Borough of Ealing (LBE) asked for the independent commissioner’s view on the impact of the HS2 reset on the communities. The Independent HS2 Commissioner confirmed that he is aware of the reset and will firmly have his eye on potential implications.

Item 4 – Camden Clean Air Action Plan

London Borough of Camden (LBC) presented the Camden Clean Air Action Plan which aims to improve air quality and protect public health by reducing emissions and reducing exposure to polluted air.

The presentation summarised practical measures that Camden would take in the coming years to improve both outdoor and indoor air quality and thus achieve the World Health Organization air quality guideline limits in Camden by 2034.

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 Head of Noise Assessment. At the end of the update he focussed on planned works for the Christmas period 2025 which includes parapet installation on Small Dean Viaduct in EKFB area, a railway blockade from 23rd to 29th December at Water Orton in BBV area and HS2 related Network Rail works on existing lines near Old Oak Common Station.

Item 6 – Small Claims Update

Senior Public Response Manager presented on the small claims procedure at HS2. The scheme offers compensation for residential, business or agricultural stakeholders who believe they suffered personal property damage caused by HS2 works or related activities. The scheme is for claims up to £10,000. Stakeholders can claim through the HS2 Helpdesk. Claims and evidence are passed on to the relevant contractors who are ultimately liable for paying the damages if, based on available evidence, they accept that it is likely that the damage was caused by their activities. Since the scheme has been running in 2018 700 claims have been received and liability has been accepted for 173 claims. Total settlements through the scheme are approximately £89,000 with the average claim being about £500.

Questions/Comments:

London Borough of Ealing (LBE) asked if the threshold for accepting claims is appropriate given that the proportion of rejected claims is high.

Senior Public Response Manager explained that acceptance of claims is based on the evidence submitted by the application and may be supplemented with additional evidence available to the contractor e.g. vehicle tracking. In many cases the evidence provided with claims is very limited and hence it is not possible to say that it is probable that the damage was due to HS2 activities.

The Planning Forum Chair asked if the involvement of loss adjusters can slow down the resolution of claims.

Senior Public Response Manager explained that it is down to HS2 contractors to involve loss adjusters where required, however, generally our contractors only use loss adjusters for “bricks and mortar” property damage and this represents a minority of claims.

Item 7 – Other Updates

The Head of Noise Assessment and Planning Forum Chair summarised topics from the Planning Forum Subgroup meeting held on 20th November 2025. The 20th November agenda included presentations on the HS2 programme reset, the outcomes of a recent review of HS2 by the National Audit Office and updates on Service Level Agreements (SLAs). It was agreed that the minutes of the planning forum meeting would be circulated to the EHSG because they will include a useful summary of the HS2 programme reset as presented by HS2s Chief Railway Officer.

London Borough of Ealing (LBE) provide a summary of the recent HS2 Joint Regulators meeting.

Item 8 – Ongoing Construction and Section 61 & Schedule 17 Experience

No items were raised by attendees.

Item 9 – Clean Air Gas Engine Trials

CEO of Oaktec Technologies presented a project overview of the Clean Air Gas Engine (CAGE) technology trials held at EKFB sites during May-June 2025. The CAGE trials showed that Liquefied Petroleum Gas(LPG) offered a very clean transition fuel to hydrogen and a considerable cost saving over diesel.

Questions/Comments:

Buckinghamshire Council (BC) asked if EKFB were planning to adopt the technology. CEO of Oaktec Technologies explained that EKFB hire plant and equipment. The technology needs to be approved and onboarded by a hire company before it could be used by EKFB.

Westminster City Council (WCC) asked if the engines had had noise testing. CEO of Oaktec Technologies explained that noise testing showed that the engines were quieter than the diesel engines they replace and could be made quieter by developing them to operate at lower rpms.

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 first meeting of the group has been confirmed to be Thursday 29th January. The remaining meetings will be confirmed shortly.

The Chair closed the meeting.