

The proposed amended High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Bill (Additional Provision 2)

What you need to know

This guide has been produced by the Private Bill Office at the House of Commons. It explains what you can do if you want to object to the Government's proposals to amend the High Speed Rail (Crewe - Manchester) Bill.

Overview

On 24 January 2022, the Government introduced the High Speed Rail (Crewe - Manchester) Bill to the House of Commons. This Bill makes provision for a new railway to be built between Phase 2a of High Speed Two and Manchester Piccadilly Station. You can view the Bill by visiting: <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3094>

On 6 July 2022, the Government introduced Additional Provision 1 (AP1), and on 3 July 2023 introduced Additional Provision 2 (AP2). Additional Provisions 1 and 2 outline proposed amendments to the Bill resulting from further design development and engagement with stakeholders. The Additional Provisions can be found here: <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3094/publications>

This leaflet has been produced to explain what this means and what people affected by Additional Provision 2 are able to do.

What is an Additional Provision?

An Additional Provision is an amendment to a previously published bill which extends the powers or scope of the bill. This means that individuals who would not previously have been affected by the provisions of the original bill may now be affected. They are therefore entitled to petition against the Additional Provision.

Additional Provision 2 is accompanied by an Environmental Statement, setting out the expected environmental impacts of the amendments (AP2 ES), and a Supplementary Environmental Statement (SES2) providing updated environmental information and impacts of other design

changes. These documents are subject to a public consultation to which anyone, whether or not they are directly affected by the Bill or the Additional Provision, can participate. You can participate in the consultation until 11.45pm on 31 August 2023 at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/high-speed-rail-crewe-manchester-additional-provision-2-environmental-statement-and-supplementary-environmental-statement-2-consultation>

Am I affected by the Additional Provision?

Individuals whose property or interests will be affected by Additional Provision 2 will receive a notice from the solicitors acting for the HS2 project (Winckworth Sherwood and Eversheds Sutherland), explaining how and to what extent they or their interests will be affected.

Individuals can also object to the Additional Provision without receiving a letter if they believe that they could be affected by it.

What is a petition?

A petition is a document outlining how a bill – or, as in this case, an Additional Provision – affects a person, group or organisation and how the petitioners believe it should be altered to address their concerns and objections.

A Select Committee on the High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Bill has been established to hear petitioners' cases, including any petitions against Additional Provisions, and has the power to amend the Bill before reporting it, and its views on the Bill, to the House of Commons for further consideration. More information on the Committee can be found visiting: <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/597/high-speed-rail-crewe-manchester-bill-select-committee-commons/>

Guidance relating to the petitioning process can be found on the Committee's website: <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/597/high-speed-rail-crewe-manchester-bill-select-committee/publications/13/engagement-document/>

Petitioning process:

Who may petition?

Any individual, group of individuals, or organisation “directly and specially affected” by an Additional Provision may petition against it.

If the Promoter of the Bill (HS2 Ltd acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport) believes that someone who petitions against the Additional Provision is not “directly and specially affected” they may object to the petitioner's right to be heard by the Committee. In such cases, the MPs on the Select Committee will decide if the petition can be accepted.

What do petitions look like?

A template petition has been produced for use by petitioners, and is available online at the following link: <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/597/high-speed-rail-crewe-manchester-bill-select-committee/publications/13/engagement-document/>

Petitions should state:

- who the petitioner/s are;
- why and how the petitioners are affected by the Additional Provision; and
- what the petitioners feel should be done to reduce or mitigate any negative consequences which may arise from the Additional Provision.

As the petition will form the basis of the petitioner's case before the Select Committee, it should include all the points of objection the petitioner/s have against the Additional Provision. The petition may only deal with objections to the Additional Provision, not to the rest of the Bill.

How and when can petitions be submitted?

The petitioning period for Additional Provision 2 will run from 9am on 4 July to 5pm on 15 August 2023. Petitions can be submitted to the Private Bill Office as a Word document by using the dedicated online portal on the Parliamentary website (<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/597/high-speed-rail-crewe-manchester-bill-select-committee-commons/>), or by email, by post or in person.

Petitioners are required to pay a one-off administration fee of £20 to submit a petition. There is no charge for a subsequent appearance before the Committee. If you have already paid to petition against the Bill or Additional Provision 1, you do not need to pay again for a petition against Additional Provision 2.

What happens next?

Once a petition is submitted, it is passed to HS2 Ltd, which will then contact petitioners and seek to resolve their objections. Petitioners against a bill and/or an additional provision will usually be entitled to appear before the Select Committee on the bill to make their case. However, the Government may challenge some petitioners' right to be heard. In such cases, the petitioner and promoter will be invited to appear before the Select Committee to explain why they believe they do, or do not, have the right to be heard. The Committee will then make a decision. For more on the right to be heard, see the guidance here: <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/597/high-speed-rail-crewe-manchester-bill-select-committee/publications/13/engagement-document/>. The Promoter of the Bill has also produced its own guidance, which you can find on the gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-relating-to-right-to-be-heard-challenges-for-the-hs2-phase-2b-crewe-manchester-hybrid-bill>

The Select Committee will hear and adjudicate on any right to be heard challenges. You can read the transcript of previous right to be heard challenges in connection with this Bill (<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/12775/default/>) or watch a video of proceedings (<https://parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/%206304a599-bbd3-4b4a-b974-11631659c3ab>).

Petitioners with a right to be heard will be able to appear before the Committee to make the case as outlined in their petition. They will appear alongside representatives of the promoter, who will respond to the issues raised by the petitioner. Both the petitioner and the promoter will have the opportunity to bring witnesses to support their case. David Walker, the Committee's programme manager, will be in contact with petitioners to arrange their appearance before the Committee.

Petitioners can appear before the Committee in person or through a representative acting on their behalf. This could be a solicitor or a friend, or what is known as a 'Roll A' agent. This is a professional Parliamentary Agent experienced in representing petitioners wishing to object to bills before Parliament. A list of registered Parliamentary Agents can be found on the Parliament website and below:

Bexley Beaumont Limited

Email: richardbull@bexleybeaumont.com

Website: www.bexleybeaumont.com

BDB Pitmans LLP

Tel: 020 7783 3437 Website: www.bdbpitmans.com

Email: pamthompson@bdbpitmans.com

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP

Tel: 020 3400 1000 Website: www.bclplaw.com

Email: Helen.kemp@bclplaw.com

Pinsent Masons LLP

Tel: 020 7418 7000 Website: www.pinsentmasons.com

Email: robbie.owen@pinsentmasons.com

Sharpe Pritchard LLP

Tel: 020 7405 4600 Website: www.sharpepritchard.co.uk

E-mail: alewis@sharpepritchard.co.uk

Links and resources

The High Speed Rail (Crewe - Manchester) Bill, Additional Provision 1 and 2, and accompanying documents such as Plans and Sections, the Environmental Statements and the Supplementary Environmental Statements can be found on the Parliament and gov.uk websites at the following links:

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3094/publications>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-2b-high-speed-rail-crewe-manchester-additional-provision-2>

If you have any questions about the bill process or if you would like to be kept informed about the Bill's Parliamentary stages, please contact the Private Bill Office in the House of Commons at hs2committee@parliament.uk or 020 7219 3250. More information about the HS2 project is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/high-speed-two-limited>



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