



High Speed Rail (London-West Midlands) Bill

Select Committee

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

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Dear Petitioner(s)

HS2: petitions for an extended Chilterns tunnel

Before the election, the HS2 Select Committee provisionally completed hearing petitions for Birmingham, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire and for parts of South Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Hillingdon.

On recommencing, we continued hearing petitions from South Buckinghamshire and from outer London. In July, we will move on to the substantive case for an extended Chilterns tunnel.

First to be called on that issue will be eight of the main local authorities, statutory bodies and interest groups that have petitioned on it:

- Chilterns District Council (petition 416)
- Buckinghamshire County Council (petition 520)
- The Chiltern Society (petition 761)
- Conserve the Chilterns and Countryside (petition 1310)
- The Chiltern Countryside Group (petition 1288)
- The Chilterns Conservation Board (petition 415)
- Chiltern Ridges HS2 Action Group (petition 1285)
- The Residents' Environmental Protection Association (petition 1809).

Unless the Committee has already decided in favour of a tunnel after hearing those petitions, other Chilterns tunnel petitioners will be heard in September. Remaining (non-tunnel) Chilterns issues would, if necessary, follow after that.

There may therefore be a large number of petitions to hear in September, all on the extended tunnel issue. It is important that those petitions do not repeat the same arguments already heard in July.

You are one of the petitioners on the extended tunnel issue. There is a choice on how you make your case heard. The Committee suggests one of the following options to make your case most effectively.

If you want to make your own case on the tunnel

If you want to make your own case, please be mindful of the Committee's advice on making petition presentations concise (paragraphs 140 and 141 of the Committee's interim report).¹

The Committee will want to hear **all** remaining Chilterns tunnel petitions in its September sitting weeks (probably the weeks of 7, 14 and 21 September) and will programme timings accordingly. We believe this is a proportionate amount of time given the similarity between petitions, but it will be critical for presentations to be very succinct and not to repeat earlier arguments.

Please therefore watch or read the July proceedings to help ensure you do not repeat points already made in July.

You can watch a live feed of the Committee hearings on Parliament TV.² Daily transcripts of the hearings can be found on the Committee website.³ Please check the Committee's website for the July programme.⁴

Grouping of petitions

The Committee has found that petitions presentations are often more effective if they are grouped together.

The Committee's interim report (paragraphs 142–144) suggested that Chilterns petitioners consider presenting their cases in groups—i.e. with a lead petitioner making their case. Some Chilterns tunnel petitioners have already been working on presenting in groups. If you are not already doing so, therefore, you may want to consider the following options.

Appointing a Roll B agent

If you are uncertain about appearing before the Select Committee, you can appoint a Roll B agent to represent you. Details of how to appoint a Roll B agent are in the petitioning kit on the Committee website (see 'Petitions Materials').⁵ Roll B agents can make the case for several petitioners together and in this way help the Committee with its work. You can appoint another petitioner as a Roll B agent, provided they consent.

Associating yourself with another petition

Instead of appearing in person, you may instead want to associate yourself/yourselves with one of the petitions similar to your own listed in the attached spreadsheet. (The spreadsheet is divided into tabs A–Q which group similar petitions together).

If you notify us that this is what you want to do, and identify the petition or petitions you support, we will record your support for that petition or petitions in our final report. The Committee will not then call you to be heard on your own petition, but you would be seen to have registered your protest about HS2 before the Committee.

¹ <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmsselect/cmhs2/338/33802.htm>

² <http://parliamentlive.tv/Commons>

³ <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/high-speed-rail-london-west-midlands-bill-select-committee-commons/>

⁴ <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/high-speed-rail-london-west-midlands-bill-select-committee-commons/publications/>

⁵ <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/high-speed-rail-london-west-midlands-bill-select-committee-commons/publications/>

To do this, please read through the main petitions in your group and decide whether they include the points you wish to make. Then, email the Committee c/o caulfieldn@parliament.uk (or write to the Clerk of the HS2 Select Committee, House of Commons, London, SW1P 3JA) indicating which petition, if any, you wish to be associated with. You can do that at any time between now and 4 September.

Some of the main petitioning groups are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Petition</u>
Little Kingshill Society	33
The Dunsmore Society	1681
Great Missenden Parish Council	1184
Little Missenden Parish Council	945
Great Missenden Village Association	770
Great Missenden Stop HS2	771/1162
The Lee Parish Council	1022
Wendover Parish Council	1512
Halton Parish Council	106
Wendover HS2 Action Group	83
Ellesborough Parish Council	758
The Wendover Society	605
Amersham & District Residents Association	1864
Amersham Town Council	871
The Amersham Society	1816
Amersham Action Group	1898
HS2 Amersham Action Group (HS2 AAG)	1827
The Chesham Society	694
Chesham Town Council	870
South Heath Action Group	1186
Wood Lane Residents Association	1165
Potter Row Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (PRNWS)	1916
Ballinger Road Residents Association	1017
Marriotts Avenue Group (MAG)	1035
Lappetts Lane (South Heath) Neighbourhood Watch Scheme	1214
Sibleys Rise Residents' Group	1908

This letter is copied to the above groups so that they are aware that other petitioners may choose to write to the Committee associating themselves with one of their petitions.

The Committee will publish a list of petitioners who chose this option so that the extent of support for petitions is clear.

Attending the Committee proceedings

During hearings on the Chilterns tunnel, we will have capacity for approximately 90 people in total in the committee room and the next-door room which will have a live TV feed. You can attend the hearings in July and/or September that come on before your own and consider endorsing the arguments you hear, to avoid repeating points already made. To do that, you can appear briefly before the Committee to say that you agree with the points you have heard, or tell the Clerk (Neil Caulfield) or Committee Assistant (Miguel Boo Fraga).

The Committee believes that these options represent a fair and effective way of hearing all the arguments that petitioners will want to raise. We hope for petitioners' cooperation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Syms', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

ROBERT SYMS MP
CHAIRMAN