

Chair Sulgrave Parish Council

By email:

21 August 2016

Dear Mr Walker

Assurances Relating to High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Bill

I am the Director of Hybrid Bill Delivery at HS2 Ltd, which is acting on behalf of the Promoter of the High Speed Rail (London — West Midlands) Bill ('the Bill') currently before Parliament and am writing to you since the appearance of the Parish Council before the HS2 Select Committee on 20 July 2016.

During your appearance you raised concerns about the potential impact that HS2 construction traffic may have on traffic in Sulgrave Parish, including, in particular, with respect to safety issues.

The Environmental Minimum Requirements and the HS2 draft Code of Construction Practice (CoCP), together with the various controls prescribed in the Bill, are intended to ensure that the impacts of the Proposed Scheme, including those relating to construction traffic, will not exceed those assessed in the Environmental Statement. Please see Information Paper E13 Management Of Traffic During Construction for more information.

As you may be aware, a final version of the Route-wide Traffic Management Plan (RTMP) has been published (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-phase-one-route-wide-traffic-management-plan>) which will form the basis of the contractor requirements for the Principal Contractors delivering the Proposed Scheme and sets out how HS2 will manage the flow of construction traffic and the safety of vehicles and drivers. The recurring theme throughout the RTMP is that of a culture of safety, including construction vehicles and their drivers using the road network and protecting all road users, but with particular consideration of pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians and powered two wheeler users.

You also mentioned, during your appearance in front of the House of Lords Select Committee, that the Parish Council is particularly concerned about the construction traffic in the vicinity of the Banbury Road/B4525 Welsh Road junction. In this regard the Secretary of State is prepared to offer you the following assurance:

The Secretary of State will require the Nominated Undertaker to keep Sulgrave Parish Council updated regarding progress and outcomes of work being carried out to investigate the possible use of a haul road between Brackley and Lower Boddington.

In this assurance:

“the Assurances” means the assurances provided to Wardington Parish Council numbered 1686 and 1687 on the current Register of Undertakings and Assurances;

“the Nominated Undertaker” means the relevant nominated undertaker appointed under the Bill as enacted and, in the period prior to the Secretary of State appointing a nominated undertaker and imposing the requirements on it referred to in these assurances, HS2 Ltd.

“the Register of Assurances and Undertakings” means a register recording the binding commitments given by the Promoter during the passage of the Bill which is held by the Department of Transport and will be finalised when the Bill is given Royal Assent;

The above will be included on the Register of Undertakings and Assurances. The nominated undertaker will be contractually obliged to comply with all relevant undertakings and assurances set out in the Register. Further information on how the Promoter will ensure compliance with assurances made by HS2 Ltd is set out in HS2 Information Paper B4, Compliance with Undertakings and Assurances (a copy of which can be found on our website).

If you require further assistance, please contact Alan Phelan who will be able to discuss this further.

Yours Sincerely,

p.p. 

Roger Hargreaves
Director, Hybrid Bill Delivery
High Speed Two (HS2) Limited