

Mike Cooke
Chief Executive
London Borough of Camden
Camden Town Hall
Judd Street
WC1H 9JE

4 February 2016

By email only

Dear Mr Cooke

**High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Bill
Petition No.0184, AP20142, AP3072 London Borough of Camden – Assurances regarding the HS2 Code of
Construction Practice**

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. I am writing to you on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport to set out the assurances that the Secretary of State is willing to give in order to address some of the concerns expressed by the London Borough of Camden (the Borough) regarding the impact of Phase One of HS2 (known as 'the Proposed Scheme').

With reference to the above petitions the Promoter and the Borough have engaged extensively and sought to resolve the objections raised by the Borough. As a result of this engagement HS2 is able to offer the assurances in the following areas – the details of which are provided in detail in this letter:

1. Continued Engagement regarding the Code of Construction Practice
2. Publication of a revised Code of Construction Practice
3. Continued Engagement regarding the development of Local Environmental Management Plans
4. Review of London Borough of Camden Local Environmental Management Plan
5. Environmental controls reflecting best practice from major infrastructure projects
6. Sustainability Reports

Continued Engagement and Publication of a revised Code of Construction Practice

The HS2 Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) is part of the HS2 Environmental Minimum Requirements (EMRs). The controls within it will apply to the works authorised by the Bill. It is a best practice document which has been developed from the CoCPs for projects such as Crossrail, the Olympics and Northern Line Extension.

The Promoter has engaged on the development of the CoCP through the development of High Speed Two (HS2). It was consulted on as part of the draft Environmental Statement (ES) and again as part of the ES that was deposited with the Bill. After that the Promoter engaged with local authorities on the document through the HS2Phase One Route Wide Planning Forum and its sub-groups.

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This engagement involved seeking the detailed comments of Forum and sub-group members on all sections of the document. These were then analysed and a new draft of the CoCP was prepared. This draft, along with a table responding to every comment made, was shared with Forum on 15th and 16th July 2015.

At the Forum meetings in July it was agreed that any further comments would be taken up by Camden Borough Council as Lead Local Authority for the CoCP. Camden Council officers undertook to collate comments from the members of the Forum so they could be discussed and hopefully resolved prior to the Council appearing at Select Committee. Comments were received on the 26 November.

It remains the Promoter's intention that the CoCP should be a robust document that is fit for purpose, hence the extensive engagement with local authorities through the Forum. Any detailed comments provided either by Camden as Lead Local Authority or by other member of the Forum, will be considered by HS2 who will in turn respond to them and amend the CoCP as appropriate. Where comments are not incorporated an explanation will be provided. We do however request that any comments are provided as soon as possible otherwise it will not be possible to include them in the next published iteration of the EMRs.

The Promoter intends to publish the next iteration of the CoCP following the completion of the House of Commons select committee phase and prior to the House of Lords petitioning period commencing. A final version will be published upon Royal Assent.

As a result the Promoter is able to provide the following assurances:

- 1. The Secretary of State will require the Nominated undertaker to continue to engage on the detail of the Code of Construction Practice with the London Borough of Camden and other local authorities through the Planning Forum. The Promoter will use reasonable endeavours to incorporate comments received and will provide explanation where it is not possible for comments to be included.*
- 2. The Secretary of State will require the Nominated Undertaker to publish a revised draft Code of Construction Practice following the publication of the House of Commons Select Committee report and at least one month before the House of Lords petitioning period.*

Local Environmental Management Plans, Best Practice Environmental Controls and Sustainability Reports

Under the Environmental Minimum Requirements the nominated undertaker is obliged to prepare a Local Environmental Management Plan that meets the requirements of the CoCP. If the nominated undertaker fails to do this, local authorities have recourse through the processes set out in Information Paper E1. The Promoter fully intends to continue to engage with the London Borough of Camden on the development of the Local Environmental Management Plans (LEMP). The Council received an early draft Euston Station LEMP on which it provided comments. A full and detailed response to these comments was provided to the Council. The Council has been provided with a draft of the LEMP for the Borough in advance of Select Committee. As required by the CoCP there will be engagement with the Council, the community and stakeholders prior to the LEMP being finalised. The same applies to LEMPs for other local authorities along the route.

The obligation to consult on the LEMPs is one the Promoter takes seriously and regard will be had to germane and appropriate comments. The same applies to comments from the community raised through the community engagement process.

The LEMPs will continue to be produced into detailed design stage. The finalised LEMP along with the CoCP will be implemented in the lead contractors' Environmental Management Systems (EMS) which will be certified to BS EN ISO14001. The EMS's will be produced which will be in more detail than the LEMPs.

Furthermore, the Promoter recognises the unique nature of the works in Camden following the deposition of Additional Provision 3 and the resultant requirement for the LEMPs to be revisited during construction to reflect the phased approach to the delivery of Euston Station.

The Promoter is able to provide the London Borough of Camden the following further assurances.


3. *The Secretary of State will require the Nominated Undertaker to engage with the Local Authorities and the community on the development of Local Environmental Management Plans and to have reasonable regard to comments received.*
4. *The Secretary of State will require the Nominated Undertake to review the Local Environmental Management Plan for Camden during construction at a point in time between the completion of phase A and commencement of phase B1 station works.*
5. *The Secretary of State will require the Nominated Undertaker to ensure that the CoCP and other environmental controls set out in Information Paper E1 will reflect best practice from other major infrastructure projects (including, in London, any guidance issued by the Mayor).*
6. *The Secretary of State will require the Nominated Undertaker to report, at least annually, on sustainability issues which will, as a minimum include noise, vibration and air quality, with information and data made available to the public on a more regular basis as consistent with the LEMP.*

These assurances are offered on the basis that they reflect the entirety of the Borough's remaining concerns on this issue and that they will not be appearing in the House of Commons on this issue. The London Borough of Camden retains the right to raise these in the House of Lords.

These assurances are provided on the understanding that they reflect the entirety of the Borough's remaining concerns regarding the Code of Construction Practice.

I have copied this letter to Alastair Lewis (Sharpe Pritchard), who I understand is acting as your appointed Parliamentary Agent.

Yours sincerely


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

cc. Alastair Lewis (Sharpe Pritchard) alewis@sharpepritchard.co.uk

