

High Speed Rail (Crewe - Manchester) Bill

Deposit of Bill material

June 2021

We are writing to you because the Department for Transport is preparing to deposit a Bill and supporting documents in Parliament to authorise the construction and operation of the Crewe – Manchester section of High Speed Two (HS2).

What does that mean for this local authority/ parish council?

As the organisation responsible for producing the Bill and its supporting documents on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport, we (HS2 Ltd) are required by Parliamentary rules to place copies of the Bill and its supporting documents with local authorities and parish councils along the route of the proposed railway. This means that we will need to send you these documents following the deposit of the Bill in Parliament.

Once you have received the Bill and its supporting documents you are required to make these documents available for inspection by the public and your office will be regarded as a 'deposit location'.

Why do we need to do this?

Under Parliamentary rules (known as Parliamentary Standing Orders) copies of the Bill and supporting documents are required to be held and made available for public inspection, by local authorities and parish councils. For your reference, these duties and obligations on Local Authorities and Parish Councils are laid out in Sections 225 and 228(5) to (7) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Making the deposited documents publicly available plays a vital role in ensuring that people who might be affected by the proposed railway have full access to the information in the documents which authorises the railway to be constructed, subject to approval by Parliament. This helps people to understand the effects of the scheme and how we are planning to manage them, and lets them know how they can have their say and where they can get more help and information if they need it.



Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns we are happy to help – please email us at HS2BillDeposit@hs2.org.uk

How long do we need to make the documents available?

The documents need to be available for public inspection until the Bill becomes law (known as receiving Royal Assent). We will keep you updated on the passage of the Bill through Parliament.

What does 'make available' actually mean?

Parliamentary Standing Orders say that deposit locations must 'permit any person at all reasonable hours of the day to inspect' the deposit documents. In practice, this means storing the documents in either a public place or a non-public area, as long as the public can be given access on request. Reasonable hours mean standard working hours (i.e. 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday) or outside of these hours providing you are given sufficient notice to arrange such an appointment.

In what format will the material be provided?

We are proposing to provide the documents to you in electronic format, which will be a mobile storage device such as a memory stick, or other convenient format, containing the full suite of documents.

In order for the public to be able to access the documents, you will need to ensure that a suitable device, such as a computer, is available. If you do not have a suitable device, we can supply you with one until Royal Assent.

If you wish to receive hard copies of the documents do let us know. Please note that a hard copy of the full suite of documents will consist of approximately 18,000 pages and will require a significant amount of storage space and associated delivery logistics.

What happens if we are unable to make the documents available?

If you are unable to make the documents available or would prefer another local facility, such as a library, to hold the documents, please let us know, stating which local facility you would like to nominate. The local facility would have to agree to host the documents, but we can get in touch with them to ask.

Other than making documents available, is there anything else we might need to do?

In some cases, yes. Some local authorities will be sent the notices that we publish in local and national newspapers when the Bill is deposited. These newspaper notices must be displayed at a place of public resort, which means a community noticeboard or another prominent location. We will let you know nearer the time if this applies to you.

Will we receive further documents as the Bill passes through Parliament?

Yes. As the Bill goes through Parliament, we may make changes to the proposed railway design (known as Additional Provisions (APs)). These are normally made following engagement with local communities and affected parties. Each AP is accompanied by similar documentation to that produced for Bill deposit, for example they are typically accompanied by a Supplementary Environmental Statement. All these further documents form part of the final Bill and you will be required to make these documents available until Royal Assent in the same way as the Bill and its supporting documents.

What assistance is available and when will we get more details?

If you have any questions or concerns we are happy to help – please email us at HS2BillDeposit@hs2.org.uk or call us on **07584 640 850**.

We will be in touch nearer the deposit date to reconfirm your delivery details and to arrange delivery dates and times.