

Helen Jackson
Clerk to Woore Parish Council
5 Bettys Lane
Woore
Shropshire
CW3 9SQ

23 November 2020

Dear Ms Jackson

**HIGH SPEED RAIL (WEST MIDLANDS – CREWE) BILL – HOUSE OF LORDS SELECT COMMITTEE:
PETITION HS2-HOL-13 – WOORE PARISH COUNCIL**

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Director of Hybrid Bill Delivery at HS2 Ltd, which is acting on behalf of the Promoter of the High Speed Rail (West Midlands-Crewe) Bill ('the Bill') currently before Parliament.

You will know that the House of Lords High Speed Rail (West Midlands – Crewe) Bill Select Committee ('the Select Committee') published their Special Report of Session 2019-21 ('the report') on 19 October¹. The Promoter has today published its response to the report.

In paragraph 166 of the report the Select Committee said:

"A number of local road safety measures have also been proposed by the promoter, including reductions in speed limits, the upgrading of an existing pelican crossing to a puffin crossing and the provision of a traffic warden to assist children needing to reach the primary school. These are important matters affecting the safety of the public that need to be discussed between the Parish Council, HS2 and Shropshire County Council, and we urge all parties to have those discussions as soon as possible. We note that the Commons Committee directed HS2 to fund the provision of a traffic warden. We were told that Shropshire Country Council were not disposed to provide one when asked. It seems to us, however, that this proposal has obvious merit and that it too should be taken seriously."

As you know, we wrote to the then Clerk to the Parish Council on 13 March 2020 providing an assurance that, subject to conditions set out in the assurance, the Secretary of State would continue to engage with Woore Parish Council and the local highway authority in relation to the impact of a construction route through Woore village and would use reasonable endeavours to agree with Woore Parish Council a suitable package of physical traffic calming and safety measures to manage construction traffic within the village. A copy of the letter is attached for ease of reference.

¹ A copy can be found at <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/404/high-speed-rail-west-midlands-crewe-bill-select-committee-lords/news/120165/hs2-bill-committee-publishes-report/>

The assurance stated that in the event that agreement on a package of measures was not reached in time to allow the traffic calming measures to be consented and constructed prior to such time that the A51 and A525 are required by the nominated undertaker as construction routes for the Proposed Scheme, the Secretary of State would require the nominated undertaker to implement the measures proposed in Design Package 2 in the report sent to Woore Parish Council in January 2019 entitled 'Traffic Calming and Road Safety Provisions Options – Woore Village' and summarised in the letter.

As a result of paragraph 166 of the House of Lords Select Committee report, I am writing to you, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport, to offer you the following further assurance:

"In this assurance:

"the Secretary of State" means the Secretary of State for Transport;

"the nominated undertaker" refers to the body or bodies appointed by the Secretary of State to exercise the powers conferred by the Bill to construct and maintain the Proposed Scheme. The nominated undertaker may be HS2 Ltd, or it may be another body or bodies appointed to oversee the construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme;

"the Proposed Scheme" means Phase 2a of HS2 as defined further in the Bill;

"HS2 construction traffic route" means an application for, and approval of, a route for Large Goods Vehicles to use the A51 and A525 and which passes through Woore in accordance with Schedule 17 of the High Speed Rail (West Midlands – Crewe) Bill ("the Bill");

"the Bill" means the High Speed Rail (West Midlands-Crewe) Bill as brought into the House of Lords on 16 July 2019 and the "Bill" includes any Act of Parliament enacting that Bill.

1. Provision of School Crossing Patrol Officer

1.1 Subject to paragraph 1.2, so as to comply with the recommendation of the House of Lords Select Committee regarding the implementation of road safety measures in Woore village, the Secretary of State will require the nominated undertaker to:

1.1.1 Include provision for a School Crossing Patrol Officer in the package of measures set out in the assurance given to Woore Parish Council on 13 March 2020; and

1.1.2 In the event that Shropshire Council ("the Council"), as local highway authority, does not give its approval to the provision of a School Crossing Patrol Officer then the equivalent funding for the School Crossing Patrol Officer would be made available to the Council for other road safety measures that the Council informs the nominated undertaker would be of a greater safety benefit to the village of Woore.

1.2 Paragraph 1.1 is subject to the following:

1.2.1 the provision for the School Crossing Patrol Officer be used only during term time for the period that the A51 and A525 through the parish of Woore are in use as an HS2 construction traffic route;

1.2.2 the School Crossing Patrol Officer is deployed only on the crossing situated on London Road outside Woore Primary School;

- 1.2.3 any funding for alternative safety measures provided to the Council is no more than the cost of funding the School Crossing Patrol Officer would be for that period;
- 1.2.4 the School Crossing Patrol Officer can be employed, or alternative measures can be carried out, without prejudicing the safe, timely and economic delivery of the Proposed Scheme;
- 1.2.5 in relation to paragraph 1.1.1, the consent of the local highway authority.”

The assurance set out above will be included in the Register of Undertakings and Assurances, which is held by the Department for Transport. Drafts of the Register will be published regularly during the passage of the Bill and it will be finalised after Royal Assent. A nominated undertaker will be contractually obliged to comply with all relevant undertakings and assurances set out in the Register. The assurance process is set out in Annex A.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact Jeremy Croxall, Petition Advisor, on 0121 720 5147 or Jeremy.Croxall@hs2.org.uk.

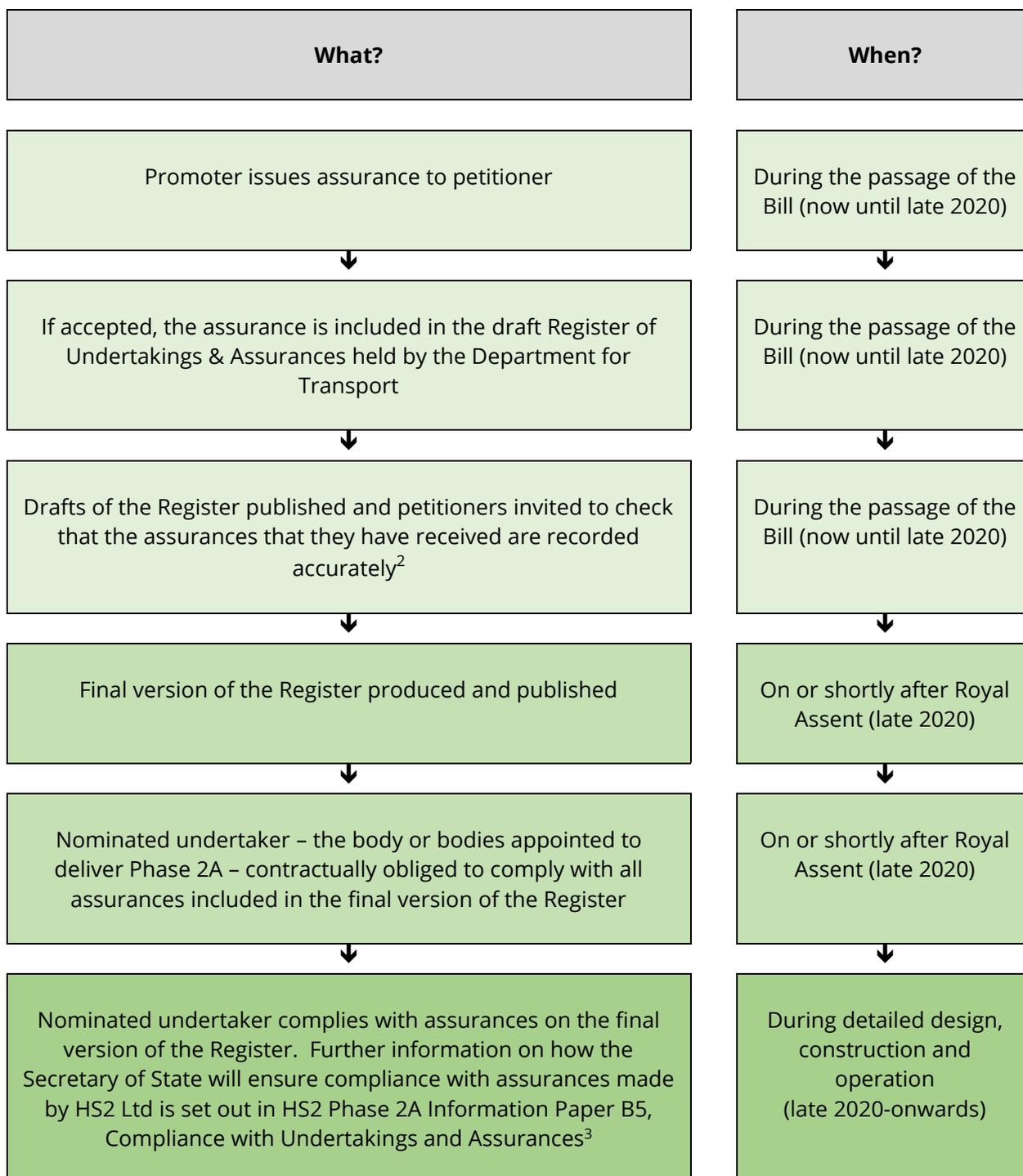
Yours sincerely



Simon Knight
Director, Hybrid Bill Delivery
High Speed Two (HS2) Limited

Annex A

ASSURANCES: STEPS AND TIMING



² The latest draft of the Register can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-phase-2a-register-of-undertakings-and-assurances>

³ A copy can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/understanding-the-hybrid-bill-hs2-phase-2a-information-papers>

Mr Bernie Morris
Clerk to Woore Parish Council
68 Cadman Drive
Priorslee
Telford
Shropshire
TF2 9SD

13 March 2020

Dear Mr Morris

**HIGH SPEED RAIL (WEST MIDLANDS – CREWE) BILL – HOUSE OF LORDS SELECT COMMITTEE:
PETITION HS2-HOL-013 – WOORE PARISH COUNCIL**

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Director of Hybrid Bill Delivery at HS2 Ltd, which is acting on behalf of the Promoter of the High Speed Rail (West Midlands-Crewe) Bill ('the Bill') currently before Parliament.

I wrote to you on 21 October 2019 setting out the Promoter's position in relation to the issues raised in your petition against the High Speed Rail (West Midlands-Crewe) Bill in the House of Lords and the measures identified to address your concerns. This letter provides an update in relation to those issues raised in your petition where further progress has been made.

A meeting between HS2 Ltd representatives and members of Woore Parish Council took place on 23 October 2019 to discuss the proposed traffic calming measures set out in the 'Traffic Calming and Road Safety Provisions Options – Woore Village Report' issued by HS2 Ltd in January 2019. The measures recommended by HS2 Ltd (called Design Package 2 in the report) included:

- a series of soft calming measures including road marking measures; upgrading of an existing controlled crossing; installation of a new zebra crossing and improved gateways in the north and south entrances to the village;
- vehicle activated signs for north and southbound vehicles;
- adjustments to the kerb lines at the junction of the A51/A525 junction;
- enhanced pedestrian crossing points on A51; and
- improvements to pavement provision adjacent to the Falcon Inn in The Square, London Road, Woore.

At that meeting Woore Parish Council representatives asked HS2 Ltd to assess two further potential traffic calming measures, these being pedestrian guardrailing in the vicinity of Woore Primary and Nursery School and measures to improve safe access to and from the school drop off point on the A525 Newcastle Road.

On 29 October 2019, HS2 Ltd sent Woore Parish Council the 'Woore: Air Quality Monitoring Report' which provides an appraisal of the air quality information presented in the HS2 Phase 2a Environmental Statement. This report confirms that no significant effects are expected in Woore during the construction phase of the Proposed Scheme.

On 14 November 2019, HS2 Ltd shared a 'Traffic Calming Summary Table' with Woore Parish Council, summarising all the traffic calming and safety measures proposed by HS2 Ltd and Woore Parish Council and incorporating the views of both parties.

A meeting then took place on 27 February 2020 between representatives of HS2 Ltd, Woore Parish Council working party and Shropshire Council, as the local highway authority, to discuss the traffic calming and safety measures proposed by HS2 Ltd and Woore Parish Council. During this meeting Shropshire Council gave their views on the measures proposed.

At the meeting on 27 February 2020 HS2 Ltd also provided a report entitled 'HS2 Traffic Calming Study at Woore Village – Additional Options' in response to the request made by Woore Parish Council at the meeting on 23 October 2019.

I understand from ongoing correspondence with you since the meeting on 27 February 2020 that Woore Parish Council has not yet reached a decision on a suitable package of traffic calming and safety measures. I also understand that the working party is proposing to organise a further community event to be attended by representatives from Shropshire Council and HS2 Ltd, to seek the views of local residents.

For this reason, I would like to offer you the following assurance to reassure you that HS2 Ltd will continue to engage with both Woore Parish Council and Shropshire Council in order to reach an agreement on a suitable package of measures, and that if agreement could not be reached, Design Package 2 as detailed in the report issued in January 2019 would be implemented (implementation would be subject to the approval of the local highway authority and the other conditions set out in the assurance below):

"In this assurance:

"construction route" means an application for, and approval of, a route for Large Goods Vehicles to use the A51 and A525 and which passes through Woore in accordance with Schedule 17 of the High Speed Rail (West Midlands – Crewe) Bill ("the Bill");

"Proposed Scheme" means Phase 2A of HS2 as defined further in the Bill, and includes the proposals in Additional Provision 2 to the Bill;

"the nominated undertaker" refers to the body or bodies appointed by the Secretary of State to carry out the powers conferred under the Bill to construct and maintain the scheme. The nominated undertaker may be HS2 Ltd, or it may be another body or bodies appointed to oversee the construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme;

"Secretary of State" means the Secretary of State for Transport or any successor Secretary of State or minister holding the Transport portfolio;

"the Traffic Report" means the Report entitled 'Traffic Calming and Road Safety Provisions Options – Woore Village' issued to Woore Parish Council in January 2019 and appended to this assurance.

1. Traffic Calming Measures

1.1 Subject to paragraph 1.2, so as to comply with the recommendation of the House of Commons Select Committee regarding the control of traffic in Woore Village, the Secretary of State will require the nominated undertaker to:

- 1.1.1 Continue to engage with Woore Parish Council and the local highway authority in relation to the impact of a construction route through Woore Village and to use reasonable endeavours to agree with Woore Parish Council a suitable package of physical traffic calming and safety measures to manage construction traffic within the Village.
- 1.1.2 In the event that agreement under paragraph 1.1.1 is not reached in time to allow the traffic calming measures to be consented and constructed prior to such time that the A51 and A525 are required by the nominated undertaker as construction routes for the Proposed Scheme, the Secretary of State will require the nominated undertaker to implement the measures proposed in Design Package 2 in the Traffic Report.

1.2 Paragraph 1.1 is subject to the following:

- 1.2.1 the measures can be carried out without prejudicing the safe, timely and economic delivery of the Proposed Scheme;
- 1.2.2 the consent of the local highway authority;
- 1.2.3 the measures do not create any new or different significant environmental effects than those reported in the Environmental Statement prepared in connection with the Bill.”

If accepted, this assurance will be included in the Register of Undertakings and Assurances, which is held by the Department for Transport. Drafts of the Register will be published regularly during the passage of the Bill and it will be finalised after Royal Assent. A nominated undertaker will be contractually obliged to comply with all relevant undertakings and assurances set out in the Register. The assurance process is set out in Annex A.

If you have any further queries please contact Jeremy Croxall, Area Petition Advisor on 020 7944 4661 or Jeremy.Croxall@hs2.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

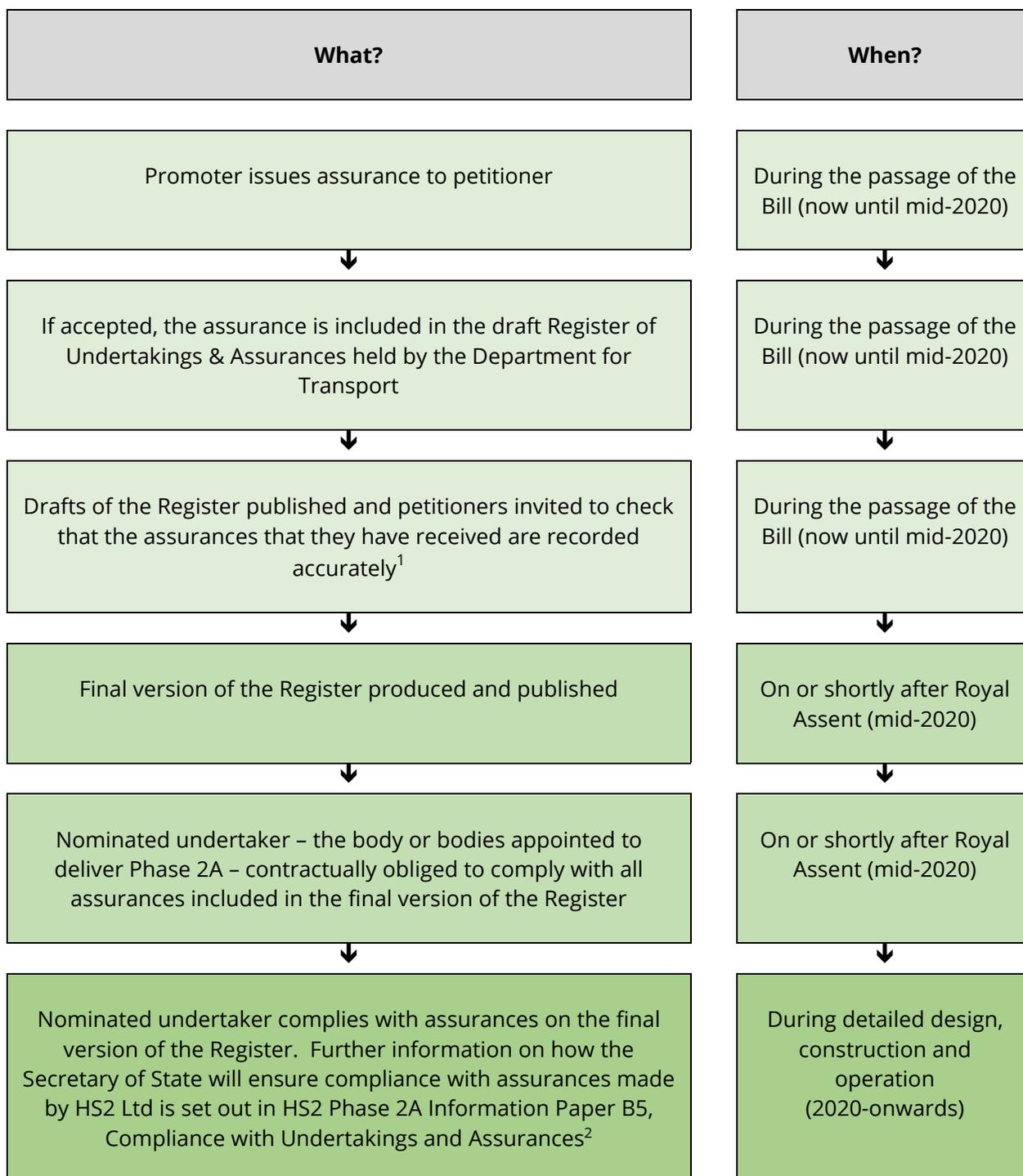


Oliver Bayne
Director, Hybrid Bill Delivery
High Speed Two (HS2) Limited

cc Clive Wright, Chief Executive, Shropshire Council

ANNEX A

ASSURANCES: STEPS AND TIMING



¹ The latest draft of the Register can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-phase-2a-register-of-undertakings-and-assurances>

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