

HOUSE OF COMMONS
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
taken before the
STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

on the

CROSSRAIL BILL

Thursday 18 October 2007

Before:

Sir Alan Haselhurst, in the Chair
Sylvia Heal
Helen Jones
Sir Michael Lord
Dr Nick Palmer
Sir Nicholas Winterton

MR PAUL IRVING, of WINCKWORTH SHERWOOD, appeared as Parliamentary Agent for the Bill.

There also appeared:

MR ANTHONY FERGUSON, Divisional Manager, Crossrail Bill Team, Department for Transport.

MR SIMON KNIGHT, Head of Government Liaison, Cross London Rail Links Limited.

MR DAVID WALKER, Senior Parliamentary Clerk, Winckworth Sherwood.

1. **CHAIRMAN:** Mr Irving, welcome to you and your colleagues. We have had the benefit of preliminary paperwork to understand what the issue is that we have to consider. I note that when the matter was examined an abbreviated procedure was followed and I can say to you at the moment that, short of any matter suddenly occurring to a member of the Committee, we are disposed to be sympathetic to the case that you wish to put to us, so it may be to the advantage of everyone if you were to make that as concise as possible.

2. **MR IRVING:** Sir, you have the statement setting out the basis on which we are asking for this dispensation. I think it may be helpful if I were just to clarify two points in addition. First of all, I would like to confirm that all the amendments to which this dispensation would apply do fall within the scope of the various instructions which were passed and which were appended to the statement. The second point I would like to clarify is that although we are

seeking a dispensation as regards dates I can confirm that the various deposits of documents which are provided for by the Standing Orders were made at a time which ensured that they were available for inspection for the full petitioning period provided for in the various instructions, which means that although the absolute dates provided for by the Standing Orders were not complied with the purpose of those dates was achieved, ie, that no affected persons were prejudiced as a result of the failure to comply with dates.

3. I think that is probably all I would want to say in addition to the statement, but if there are any questions I would be happy to answer those, and I have with me, in case it helps, Mr Anthony Ferguson, who is the head of the Bill team at the Department for Transport, and Mr Simon Wright from Cross London Rail Links Limited, who may be able to answer questions which I would not know the answer to.

4. **CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much indeed. Do any of my colleagues have any questions that they would wish to put to Mr Irving or his colleagues? (No response) Thank you very much indeed. In light of your statement and the supplementary remarks which you have made we have considered the matter and are willing to agree to the disapplication of the Standing Orders in this particular case. I think that will enable matters to proceed. Thank you very much indeed.
