

Background

If approved by Parliament the Crossrail Bill would authorise the construction and operation of a major cross-London rail link comprising new tunnels running west-east through central London connecting with existing surface rail routes to Maidenhead and Heathrow in the West and Shenfield and Abbey Wood in the East.

Details of the route, the proposed works and other information about the project can be obtained from: Cross London Rail Links Limited

Portland House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5BH

Telephone: 0845/6023813
(24 hours, 7 days a week)

Email: helpdesk@crossrail.co.uk

Website: www.crossrail.co.uk

Documents

For information on how to obtain or inspect relevant documents, including the latest version of the Bill, please contact the Crossrail Helpdesk (contact details given above).

The Crossrail Bill

The Crossrail Bill is a special type of Bill, called a Hybrid Bill, which contains provisions which have an impact on the interests of particular individuals. The Bill has government backing.

Individuals, groups and organisations opposed to all or parts of the Bill have an opportunity to oppose it or seek its amendment in Parliament. Those who are specially and directly affected by the Bill may 'petition' against it by making a formal written representation and appearing before a Select Committee.

The Bill, which must pass through both Houses of Parliament to become law, started in the House of Commons, and petitions against the Bill in that House were heard by a Select Committee of MPs. There is a second opportunity to petition against the Bill in the House of Lords, where petitioners may have their arguments heard by a Select Committee of Lords.

Passage of the Bill through the House of Commons to the House of Lords

The Select Committee that considered the Bill and the petitions against it in the House of Commons completed its work in October 2007. The Committee published a Special Report, reporting on its consideration of the Bill and the petitions against it (see www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/crossrail.cfm). The Bill was then considered by a Public Bill Committee and there was a further debate (Report and Third Reading) on the floor of the House of Commons on 13 December. The Bill then came to the House of Lords.

Introduction of the Bill in the House of Lords and the Petitioning Period

The Bill was introduced into the House of Lords on 14 December. The House has decided that the petitioning period in the House of Lords will run from 8 January 2008 to 30 January 2008.

Second Reading

In early 2008 the Bill will be considered at Second Reading stage in the House of Lords, when Peers will debate the principle of the Bill.

The Select Committee process

The Bill will then be referred to a Select Committee of seven Lords. The Committee has referred to it petitions submitted by individuals, groups or organisations on matters which specially and directly affect their private interest - the Committee is unlikely to consider issues of general principle which may be raised in petitions. Subject to the rules and orders of the House, all petitioners must be heard on their petition.

The order in which petitions will be heard will be determined by the Committee. Whilst efforts will be made to accommodate petitioners where possible there will only be limited opportunity to defer hearing dates.

A petition can be withdrawn at any time by writing to the House of Lords Private Bill Office.

Information about the preparation and submission of petitions may be obtained from the Private Bill Office in the House of Lords (contact details overleaf) who will send a full guide to petitioning, with a specimen petition, on request.

Petitioners may appear by themselves in person before the Committee or they may appoint someone to represent them. Parliamentary Agents are experienced in dealing with such matters but other persons may, on application to the Private Bill Office in the House of Lords, be appointed as an Agent for the purpose of presenting a petitioner's case. For further information on representation, and agents, please contact the Private Bill Office in the House of Lords (contact details overleaf).



A Guide to the consideration of the Crossrail Bill in the House of Lords

Remaining stages

When the House of Lords Select Committee has completed its work it will report to the House. The Bill will proceed through its remaining stages on the floor of the House of Lords and will then be returned to the Commons for consideration of any Lords amendments to the Bill.

House of Lords

**Information and advice on petitioning
in the House of Lords is available from:**

Lords Crossrail Bill Team, Private Bill Office,
House of Lords, SW1A 0PW
Tel: 02072195961
Email: prbohol@parliament.uk
Website: [www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_](http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/lords_crossrail.cfm)
[committees/lords_crossrail.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/lords_crossrail.cfm)

Please note that the House of Lords Private Bill
Office will be closed from 21 December 2007
to 6 January 2008 for the Christmas recess.

