MINUTES OF ORAL EVIDENCE
taken before the
HIGH SPEED RAIL BILL COMMITTEE
on the
HIGH SPEED RAIL (WEST MIDLANDS – CREWE) BILL

Monday 25 June 2018 (Evening)
In Committee Room 5

PRESENT:
James Duddridge (Chair)
Sandy Martin
Mrs Sheryll Murray
Bill Wiggin

IN ATTENDANCE:
Justine Thornton QC, Counsel, Department for Transport
Tony Rimmer, Petitioner Representative

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(At 7.20 p.m.)

351. THE CHAIR: Welcome back, Mr Rimmer.

Statement by Mr Rimmer

352. MR RIMMER: Thank you. Well, as you’re probably aware by the delay, we’ve had further and additional discussions about the remaining petitioners that we are here to represent, which is Moss, Proudlove, Williams and Thompson, and we have been advised that revised assurances will be coming that remove the concerns we have on behalf of those petitioners, but obviously we’ve only had verbal assurances and, as we’ve explained previously, we’ve had lots of verbal assurances in the past that things would be addressed and they haven’t, hence the need for us to be here.

353. So, provided I can reserve the right, if HS2 don’t deliver what they have promised to us, to reappear, then we will not need to do any more this evening.

354. THE CHAIR: That’s acceptable to the Committee. Do HS2 want to say anything?

355. MS THORNTON QC (DfT): Sir, we’ve had some very useful, productive discussions and we have reached an understanding, and we are going away to record that understanding. And I hope we are therefore there, as it were.

356. If there is – I think the reason Mr Rimmer is reserving his right to return is if there have been any misunderstandings during the communication. I’m not aware that there have been, but it has been conducted orally in a corridor, so I understand the reason for his request and think it’s reasonable in the circumstances.

357. THE CHAIR: I agree. Thank you very much for all your efforts.