Question: In paragraphs 45, 48 and 61 of their Second Special Report the Select Committee asked for a progress report on various cases.

Answer:

1. In paragraph 45 of the report the Select Committee said:

   “Luke Mellor has an organic farm at Colton. The Committee recognises the necessity for land take to be kept to a minimum and that replacement land will take three years to get full organic status. HS2 has given an assurance that a “working group to collaborate to consider how organic farming activities at Manor Farm can reasonably be maintained during construction of the Proposed Scheme and any restoration period thereafter.” HS2
has said that it will report back to the committee before the next calendar year. The Committee would like a progress report in September 2018.”

2. The Promoter has been holding monthly meetings with the petitioner since their appearance before the Select Committee, and is continuing to work with the petitioner and their representatives with a view to reaching agreement in advance of the House of Lords petitioning period.

3. In paragraph 48 of the report the Select Committee said:

   “Christopher and Carol Carney represented Upper Moreton Rural Activities. This is a not for profit community interest company which offers therapeutic courses and activities to people suffering with mental health needs. HS2 has made an offer to Carol and Christopher Carney to set up a steering group to look at this site. We direct HS2 to provide an update on how this case is progressing.”

4. The Promoter has met with the petitioners representative following their appearance before the Select Committee and has agreed to commission a detailed specialist report in order to look at pragmatic solutions to ensure that the Community Interest Company receives a robust package of long and short term mitigation measures. The Promoter recognises that the petitioner serves a vulnerable body of the wider community and that early and meaningful engagement is required in order to ensure that the operation can continue into the future.

5. The Promoter and the petitioners’ representatives have agreed to continue working together via the Working Group, with a view to reaching agreement in advance of the House of Lords petitioning period.

6. In paragraph 61 of the report the Select Committee said:

   “We are aware of the assurances given to the NFU and Country Landowners’ and Businesses Association and ask these organisations to ensure that the assurances received are conveyed to their members. We note that further work between the two parties is required about land drainage and that the We ask for an update on this in the autumn.”

7. The Promoter has had further discussions with the NFU since the Select Committee published their report. Those discussions covered:
• contacting non-petitioner farmers and rural business owners about the Part B assurances;

• additions to the HS2 Phase 2A Guide for Farmers and Growers, covering:
  • how assurances are enforced;
  • how to complain;
  • a note on Capital Gains Tax/Inheritance Tax; and
  • an explanation of safeguards in the Bill.

• the borrow pits review;

• temporary possession agreements; and

• engagement on the second Additional Provision to the Bill.