HOUSE OF LORDS
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
taken before the
STANDING ORDERS (PRIVATE BILLS) COMMITTEE
on the
HIGH SPEED RAIL (CREWE-MANCHESTER) BILL: SECOND ADDITIONAL PROVISION

**CORRECTED TRANSCRIPT**

Thursday 14 September 2023

Before:
Lord Gardiner of Kimble (The Chair)
Baroness Finlay of Llandaff
Lord Geddes
Lord Jones
Lord McColl of Dulwich
Lord Naseby
Baroness Thomas of Winchester

PAUL IRVING, of WINCKWORTH SHERWOOD, appeared as parliamentary agent for the Bill.

(10.30 am)

1. **THE CHAIR:** Good morning. This session is now in public. Welcome to this meeting of the House of Lords Standing Orders (Private Bills) Committee, which has been convened to consider the Examiners’ certificate relating to the second additional provision to the High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Bill. Does any member of the committee have any interest to declare? Lord Jones, I think you might want to declare an interest.
2. **LORD JONES:** Yes. I am president of the Mersey Dee Alliance, which is a cross-border Wales-England local government set‑up. My role is decorative but I thought I should acknowledge it before the committee because our long-term hope is that HS2 one day gets to Crewe, which would help my locality.
3. **THE CHAIR:** Thank you, Lord Jones, very much. The Examiners’ certificate states that certain private business Standing Orders have not been complied with, in every case solely as to time and not substantively. Our task is to decide whether to dispense with those Standing Orders. The House of Commons Standing Orders Committee has already met and has decided in favour of dispensing. We have read and received a statement from the promoter and I would like the statement to be read into the record, please. I would ask Mr Irving to first introduce himself and then to speak to the promoter’s statement. Good morning, Mr Irving.
4. **PAUL IRVING:** Good morning, my Lord. My name is Paul Irving. I am appearing as the parliamentary agent on behalf of the promoter of the Bill. Our statement sets out the various Standing Orders that have not been complied with. In summary, they all relate to non-compliance with certain dates by which things have to be done. Those are all dates that it is impossible to comply with in relation to an additional provision to the Bill and it is therefore a technical non-compliance, since we were not able to comply with them. We do not consider that anyone would have been prejudiced by the failure to comply with these requirements and, accordingly, we would ask for a dispensation from the requirements.
5. I was not going to go into the details of the Standing Orders. These requirements are all to similar effect about timing but if you would like any further details—
6. **THE CHAIR:** Well, I think we have the papers before us and we can see the issue of the time throughout. I do not think it is necessary to go into full detail on that. Have you anything further, Mr Irving?
7. **PAUL IRVING:** I did not have anything further to say, unless you have any questions.
8. **THE CHAIR:** Are there any questions from members of the committee, mindful that this is an issue about the time factors of our Standing Orders? Would any member like to raise any points? No. Well, in that case, we have obviously had very thorough consideration of statement and papers. Indeed, the committee is familiar with the concept of non-compliance solely as to time, which arises simply because certain dates set out in the Standing Orders are applicable to private Bills and are predicated on a deposit date of 27 November. These dates therefore cannot be met by hybrid Bills or by additional provision to hybrid or private Bills. In that context, and given that all the breaches are solely as to time, the committee agrees that all standing orders referred to in the Examiners’ certificate, namely Standing Orders 4, 4A, 10, 10A, 11, 12, 12A, 13, 27, 27A, 34, 36, 39, 41, 45 and 47, should be dispensed with.
9. The decision of the committee will be reported to the House in today’s minute of proceedings and will be posted on the committee’s website. I would like to thank Mr Irving and your team for attending and I thank all members of the committee for their consideration, not only in private session but before. The committee now stands adjourned.
10. **PAUL IRVING:** Thank you, my Lord.

*The Committee was adjourned at 10.35 am.*