



London gets poorer deal for HS2 compensation than countryside



HS2. Londoners forced to move by the plan will get a worse deal

10 7 0

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More than 1,500 homes blighted by the planned HS2 line will be bought by the Government in a £1.3 billion compensation scheme announced today.

Two thirds of owners will get the full market value of their homes plus a lump sum of 10 per cent of the value, up to a maximum £47,000, for the hassle of moving out.

They include owners of 338 properties that will be demolished for the high speed line and 634 homes that are within 60 metres of it.

People in rural areas will be eligible for more help than Londoners under details that went out for consultation from the transport department today.

Outside the M25, there will be a "voluntary purchase zone" covering homes between 60 and 120 metres from the high-speed rail line, which will run from London to Birmingham through a swathe of countryside.

Around 591 families in this zone can ask the Government to buy their homes off them at full price, but they will not be eligible for a lump sum.

Inside the M25, however, there will be no voluntary purchase zone, meaning Londoners who live between 60 and 120 metres from the line will not get the option.

A Department for Transport source said the reason for the disparity was that rural residents were found to be more badly affected by high speed trains nearby. "Because rural areas are less built up, the impacts are likely to be felt further away," said the source.

"In more urban areas, a voluntary purchase zone would encompass homes a number of streets away from the line where the impact is likely to be negligible." Transport Minister Simon Burns said the package struck "the right balance" for homeowners and taxpayers.

"HS2 will completely transform the UK," he said. "No major infrastructure project on this scale can be built without some impact on local communities, but I am determined to do everything I can to minimise the effect on those closest to the line."

Owners will be paid a market value reflecting what the homes would have been worth "unblighted", only owner-occupiers will be guaranteed payments.

Families may also have an option to sell their homes now to the Government but

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rent them back until construction starts in their area.

In addition, a long term hardship scheme will be set up to help those who need to move during the construction of HS2 but who are unable to sell their home.

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Anonymous 4 days ago

Within the M25 I would think that the trains will not be up to full speed and therefor not disturb as many homes whereas once clear of london they will open the taps and be going full out with the resultant disturbance being more widespread so more houses in a larger footprint will be affected.

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1 reply

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Anonymous 18 hours ago

If trains are going faster they will pass more quickly so surely have less noise unless they are going supersonic - Now there is a thought!!!

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Anonymous 4 days ago

Most of HS2 in London will be in tunnels and so just like Crossrail and Tube lines will not affect properties in same way. While some of HS2 in London will use present or former railway land and so wont have the same effect as building on open countryside.

Of course Londoners support Labour while Countryside support Tories but surely that cant be the reason, now can it?

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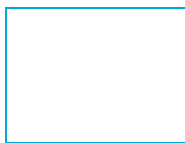
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