



HS2 compensation claims rejected



The Birmingham and Fazeley viaduct, part of the new proposed route for the HS2 high speed rail scheme

13 May 2013

Share

Three quarters of families who live near the Government's planned high speed rail link and applied for hardship compensation have been rejected, figures showed.

The Government was criticised tonight by residents and a pressure group opposing the project for offering help "to virtually nobody".

Of 455 applications, 299 have been refused, 113 accepted, and the rest are being considered.

Hilary Wharf, director of HS2 Action Alliance said: "The rules of the exceptional hardship scheme are being drawn far too tightly. This is a compensation scheme that the evidence shows is simply not fit for purpose. It offers compensation to virtually nobody and this is despite the hundreds of thousands homes blighted, many rendered unsellable, with only a tiny fraction of people qualifying for the scheme.

"HS2 is causing enormous stress and worry as it destroys the value of people's homes and wrecks the plans that they have made for themselves. Government talk of generosity is a cynical misrepresentation of the reality that they don't care."

The hardship scheme requires applicants to prove a pressing need to move.

Richard Buist, 41, and his wife Anna, 39, spent £695,000 on a farmhouse at Weeford, Staffordshire, in the hope of raising a family. Mrs Buist, a nurse, suffered a miscarriage five months after undergoing IVF treatment, and the couple resigned themselves to not being able to have children. So the couple wanted to move to a smaller home and escape the pain of the "constant reminder of the house that we can't have a family", said Mr Buist, the managing director of an engineering firm.

They have been trying to sell the house for two years but purchasers are put off by the impact of the HS2 link which is 350 yards away. One criterion for compensation is a change in family circumstances, said the businessman. "If our situation is not a change in family circumstances, I don't know what it," he said.

The Government says the compensation scheme is for exceptional hardship and is currently only open to people affected by the HS2 route from London to Birmingham. The scheme will also open to those in phase two, from Birmingham to Leeds and Manchester but is currently in a consultation phase. Officials said the scheme goes over and beyond what the Government has to do - and a longer term compensation scheme will also be looked at later in the year.

Top stories

Fire services 'could save £200m'



Special traffic courts to be set up

Farage: Protesters 'deeply racist'

Boat driver 'not wearing kill cord'

Soap actor faces court hearing

First chief social worker appointed

UK man jailed for Cyprus killing

'No great demand for gay marriage'

Tag firms might have been overpaid

Petrol and diesel prices down: AA

Ads by Google

Top Penny Shares to Buy
Join the Stock Tips Team & Discover the Finest Penny Shares
www.Stock-Tips.co.uk

YouTube Comedy Week
Starting May 20th. Watch New Videos From Your Favourite Comedians!
www.YouTube.com/ComedyWeek

Injury Compensation?
How much is your claim worth? Find out in 30 seconds.
www.AccidentAdviceHelpline.co.uk

Audible Audio Books
30-Day Free Trial. No Obligation. Over 60,000 titles. Download Today!
audible.co.uk

The Venturax Stowaway folding bike **Just £129.99** [Shop now](#)

Most Read | Commented | Shared



Chelsea win Europa League - pictures from a night of celebrations



First picture: the British climber who 'swam' through avalanche unscathed



Tasty treats on Chelsea's shopping list



Bare-faced: celebrities snapped without their make-up



Before they were famous - the dramatic makeovers of stars

Transport Minister, Simon Burns, said: "The Exceptional Hardship Scheme (EHS) is working well - so far there have been 113 successful applications and we have already spent over £48 million purchasing 81 homes along the first phase of the route between London and Birmingham at their full un-blighted market value. The scheme's criteria is clear, but we are applying this in a flexible and compassionate way."

Recommend 2 Tweet 7 Share 0

Ads by Google

The End Of Britain

Find Out Why The Looming Crisis Could Mean The End Of Britain!
www.Moneyweek.com/End-Of-Britain

Journalist Media Database

1.4 Million Journalists, Bloggers, Media Outlets & More. Take a Demo!
www.vocus.com/uk

Egg Donors

America's Leading Donor Egg Program Donor Selection and Top Doctors
www.eggdonorusa.co.uk

UK International Shipping

Save up to 70%. Request Free Quotes. Cheapest International Movers.
IntlMovers.com/Internatl-Shipping

More from the Evening Standard

[Who says their brains are all in their boots? The rise of the clever-cloggs footballer](#) (10 May 2013)

[Vroom vroom: stars of Fast and Furious 6 roar into town](#) (08 May 2013)

[Chelsea stunned as Norwich youngsters win FA Youth Cup](#) (13 May 2013)

[Get in with the new technorati](#) (09 May 2013)

[How to run pretty](#) (15 May 2013)

[Bryan Forbes, acclaimed director of The Stepford Wives, dies at 86](#) (09 May 2013)

From around the web

[10 costly pension mistakes millions of Britons make](#) (Hargreaves Lansdown)

[Thousands of over 50s could have out of date wills](#) (YourMoney)

[Cloud Computing - More than a fad?](#) (The Register)

[iPhone 6 concept shows thinner handset with touch-sensitive home button and 12MP camera](#) (uSwitch.com)

[Bizarre baby scan photos](#) (Parentdish)

[Why Italian taxpayers are turning to alternative dispute resolution](#) (TP Week)

Recommended by

SPONSORED FEATURES



The London Underground is 150 years old

To commemorate its landmark birthday, 150 people have been selected to share their unique experiences. Read their stories here.

[Nook](#) [British Airways](#) [Nespresso](#)
[The O2](#)

NEWSLETTER SIGNUP

Sign-up for our weekly Reader Offers email

A fantastic selection of offers, giveaways and promotions.

[Sign-up now](#)



• **Bedford Avenue, Bloomsbury, London, Greater London, WC1B**

3 bed. £950 PW



• **King Square, London, Greater London, EC1V**

4 bed. £750 PW



• **Huntley Street, Bloomsbury, London, WC1E**

2 bed. £750 PW

e.g. 'Borough', 'SW10'

Find us on Facebook



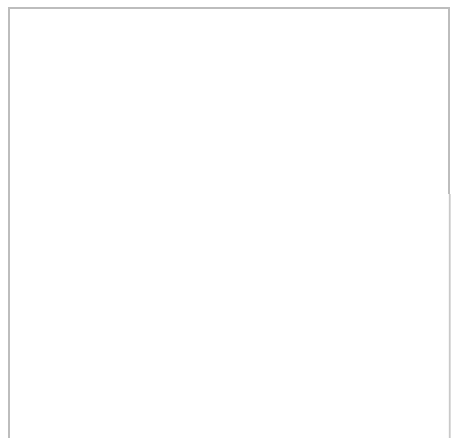
30,257 people like London Evening Standard.



Facebook social plugin

EVENING STANDARD PARTNERS

What is it really like to stay in a private hospital?





FRENCH CONNECTION

£150.00 **£84.00**

powered by Lynku

Don't Miss



Chelsea joy



Just married



Beckham pictures



The Great Gatsby



Party people



[Archive](#)
[Topics](#)
[Contact](#)
[Privacy](#)
[Cookies](#)

[Terms](#)
[Code of Conduct & Complaints](#)
[Promotion Rules](#)
[Community Rules](#)
[Syndication](#)

[The Independent](#)
[Homes & Property](#)
[Business Connections](#)
[This is London](#)

[ES Magazine Subscription](#)
[Get Listed](#)
[Brand Advertising](#)
[© 2012 Evening Standard Limited](#)

[ES Rentals](#)
[Jobsite](#)
[Free Evening Standard apps](#)
[This is London Magazine](#)