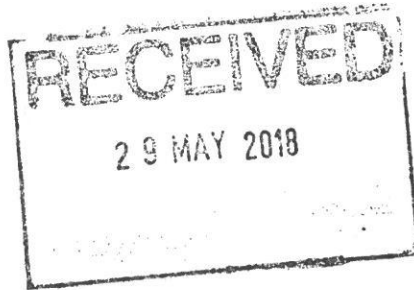


05J/185

Secretary of State for Transport,
c/o Transports and Works Act Orders Unit,
General Counsel's Office,
Department for Transport Zone 1/18,
Great Minster House,
33 Horseferry Road,
London,
SW1P 4DR



21/05/2018

Dear Sir,

I object to the Rother Valley Railway extension. I run a vermin control business in West Kent and East Sussex. The Rother Valley railway runs through the centre of this area. They already have four level crossings, two of which are on the A28 and the A268. They often cause traffic hold-ups and it takes a long time to let a train pass, costing me time and creating inconvenience. The proposed extension will involve three more crossings. The main one being on the A21 on the Robertsbridge by-pass, a road created to avoid traffic going through the village. Putting an extra obstacle on this road defies common sense and being close to the roundabout, which is already very congested, will only exaggerate the problem.

I thought that the Compulsory Purchase Orders of land was created for the need to improve the national infrastructure and not for private people to make money. When you sell something, you have no right to claim it back at a later date. If this goes ahead, it could create a precedent and could cause chaos in past land and property sales.

The new railway line's location will divide fields, making quite large areas of land unviable and the compensation offered has no relation to the loss to the farmers. The excuse that they are only replacing what was there before is not valid. Two hundred years ago, there was no railway line.

The consultation meetings give me some concerns. The information provided was incorrect, and their mathematics are quite suspect. Their attitude was dictatorial, and indicated that they will be going ahead, whatever we say. There has been no effort to compromise. This is not the way to go to get local support.

For all the above reasons, I strongly object to the Rother Valley Railway extension.

Yours sincerely

Charles BRINSLEY