

## Privacy Notice

All companies look after some personal information. For HS2 Limited, this information is mainly about:

- Our employees and other people we work with.
- People, properties, and businesses affected by building the new railway.

We'd like to explain how we look after your personal information and protect your privacy.

There are rules about what personal information we can record, hold, use, and share.

You have rights over your personal information.

The rules that apply to your personal information in the United Kingdom are the United Kingdom General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018).

In line with these rules, we are registered with the Information Commissioner as a 'data controller'. Our registration number is Z1711200.

This document is our main Privacy Notice. We are providing this to you to support your right to be informed and so that HS2 is compliant with the transparency requirements of the UK GDPR. You can find more about your rights in section 11 below.

HS2 has adopted a layered approach to Privacy Notices, so you will see short Privacy Statements highlighting the main details on our forms, websites, email footers, CCTV signs, etc., more 'activity specific' Notices published where required, as well as this Notice.

We are serious about looking after your personal information and protecting your privacy because we understand how important it is and we want you to have trust and confidence in our organisation.

**We do not, and will not, sell your personal information.**

### 1.1 HS2's legal background for using personal data

All of our collection and use of personal data is governed by legislation, dependant on the particular activity we are carrying out. The majority of our processing is carried out under the following pieces of legislation:

- High Speed Rail (West Midlands – Crewe) Act 2021
- High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) Act 2017
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Equality Act 2010

Other legislation may be relevant to specific processing and where this is the case an 'activity specific Privacy Notice' will be published which will also become relevant once they are passed through Parliament. Where this is the case, this Notice will be updated.

Depending on the specific purposes for which we are processing your personal information, under the UK GDPR the lawful bases we rely on are:

- (a) Consent. Where we have sought your consent to process your personal data and you now wish to withdraw that consent, please use the contact details on the consent form you signed at the time. Alternatively, please contact HS2's Data Protection Officer using the details in section 14 below.
- (b) Contractual Obligation
- (c) Legal Obligation
- (d) It is necessary to perform a task in the public interest
- (e) We have a legitimate interest to process that data.

More specific information regarding the particular lawful basis used can be found in the respective 'activity specific' privacy notices.

## 1.2 Why do we process<sup>1</sup> personal information?

### A. Our activities

We are building a new high speed railway to better connect people and places across Britain.

The main reasons we need to process personal data<sup>2</sup>, including special category personal data<sup>3</sup> (also known as 'sensitive data'), are to:

- Build links with people, communities and organisations based on fairness and openness with all.
- Lead an inclusive and safe operation with a diverse workforce.

Additionally, for people not employed by HS2, we process personal information so we can:

- communicate with you if you are affected by HS2,
- answer your questions and address your concerns,

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<sup>1</sup> "Processing" under the General Data Protection Regulations means anything we do with your personal information. This includes receiving, recording, holding, using, sharing, updating, and securely destroying it.

<sup>2</sup> "Personal data" is defined in Chapter 1, Article 4 of the Regulations. It means information that identifies and relates to a natural (living) person, either on its own or when combined with other information held by us (or for us). It can include intentions and expressions of opinion about the person.

<sup>3</sup> "Special category data" is defined in Chapter 1, Article 9 of the Regulations and includes information about protected characteristics also defined under the Equality Act 2010, like ethnic background, and religious beliefs. Special category data also includes things like physical or mental health or condition, as well as biometric data.

- ensure we have the correct information regarding those with an interest in land or property affected by HS2
- support those with extra needs affected by the HS2 project
- safeguard the health and safety of people affected by, or working for, the project
- promote the HS2 project with the use of audio, photos, or video in which you may be included (with your consent)

## **B. Providing services to support our activities**

We may process your personal information as we carry out and support our activities. This includes:

- In the case of our employees, paying and managing our staff, including running performance management and pension schemes
- Processing compensation claims for properties affected by HS2 (see <https://www.gov.uk/claim-compensation-if-affected-by-hs2/overview>)
- Managing property and estates, including procuring, leasing, and selling property
- Managing complaints and defending legal complaints
- Managing and testing information technology systems
- Any of our duties or responsibilities under common law, statute, or good governance.

Any processing of your personal information is in line with our business needs and the law.

## **1.3 Whose personal information do we process?**

To carry out our activities (see section 1), we may process personal information from people, including:

- Our staff and contractors, including volunteers, agents, temporary and casual workers
- Our suppliers
- Advisers, consultants, and other professional experts
- People who give us information or ask for information from us
- People who complain or write to us, make claims, or are involved in any legal action involving our organisation
- Former and potential members of staff, pensioners, and beneficiaries
- Members of Parliament and Members of the House of Lords
- External stakeholders and partners.
- People affected by our construction, and associated activities.



## 1.4 What types of personal information do we process?

### A. For people working on the HS2 programme

To carry out our activities (see section 1), we may process the personal information of our employees and potential employees. We may also process the personal information of the employees of our potential and actual contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, consultants, sub-consultants, or other organisations proposing to supply HS2 with goods, services or works.

The type of personal information we process for people working on the HS2 programme includes:

- Name, address, contact details and biographical details
- Financial information
- Goods or services provided
- All protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 (including disability and age)
- Trade union and other similar memberships
- Criminal proceedings, outcomes, and sentences
- Sound and visual images (still and moving)
- Licences or permits held.

### B. For other people

For all other people, we may process your personal information so we can:

- communicate with you if you are affected by HS2,
- answer your questions and address your concerns,
- ensure we have the correct information regarding those with an interest in land or property affected by HS2
- support those with extra needs affected by the HS2 project
- safeguard the health and safety of people affected by, or working for, the project
- promote the HS2 project with the use of audio, photos, or video in which you may be included (with your consent)

For example, under the Exceptional Hardship Scheme / Need to Sell Scheme (or equivalent), you may give us a range of information to support your application – including name, address, contact details and biographical details, financial information, and personal characteristics such as health information and age.

For people who hand in petitions or attend our public consultation sessions, we collect and anonymise information about equality, diversity, and inclusion to make sure:

- i) the facilities at consultation sessions are suitable,
- ii) we are able to respond to you about HS2 in a way that answers your concerns,

- iii) HS2 does not unfairly affect some groups of people more, or in a different way, than other groups where possible.

The equality, diversity, and inclusion information we record is used to help us understand trends and future requirements for our events. It is not linked to any personal records.

## **1.5 Is there a requirement to provide HS2 the Personal Data?**

In many circumstances, particularly in regard to employees, contractors and other people who work for, or with, us, there is a requirement to provide certain information to HS2 so that we can comply with our obligations under the law (as described above).

In some cases, this legislation also requires us to gather information from you to support certain aspects of the HS2 project.

Wherever we are collecting personal information we will be clear about whether we are collecting information due to a legal requirement or under your consent. Where providing information to HS2 Ltd. is by consent, we will be transparent about obtaining that consent and provide a means for you to withdraw that consent at any time.

## **1.6 Where do we get your personal information?**

You may share personal information directly with us when you work with us or contact us about the HS2 programme, as set out in section 3. We will use this to carry out and support our activities (see section 1).

We also collect information from government departments or public registers, such as the Land Registry, where it is needed to support our decisions and activities.

We also record your personal information and images from things like our own CCTV systems, training records, letters and emails, or information that's been given to us by people about a specific matter or purpose (as explained in section 1).

## **1.7 How do we make sure your personal information is secure?**

Protecting your privacy and looking after your personal information is important to us. We make sure that we have the right policies, training, processes, and systems in place to protect our manual and electronic information systems from loss and misuse.

We take every reasonable step to make sure that we keep your personal information safe, in line with best practice, ICO guidance, the General Data Protection Regulations and any other relevant laws.

## **1.8 Who do we share your personal information with?**

To carry out our activities (see section 1), we may share your personal information with other organisations that we need to work with, such as our partner agencies, utility companies and government.

We may also share personal information with other organisations or people in connection with legal proceedings or getting legal advice, or when required to do so by any law or court order.

We do not, and will not, sell personal information for financial gain.

## **1.9 Where do we process your data?**

The large majority of personal data that HS2 is processed within the European Economic Area.

There may be occasions where some of your personal information may be processed by organisations or people based outside the European Economic Area. Where this is the case, we will be clear with you about why we need to do this and what steps we have taken to make sure we have the right safeguards in place to certify that your information is protected in line with the General Data Protection Regulations.

## **1.10 Will your personal data be subject to any form of automated decision making?**

For employees or sub-contractors there may be rare occasions where HS2 uses systems that result in automated decision making. We will be clear in our Privacy Notices when this occurs, and we will respect all the rights that individuals have in regard to that kind of processing.

For people not working on the programme, HS2 does not and will not process your personal data in a manner that results in automated decision making.



## 1.11 What are your rights if we process your personal information?

The General Data Protection Regulations sets out the rights you have. We have outlined them below. If you wish to contact us regarding any of these rights, please contact our Data Protection Officer (see section 10)

### A. Right of transparency

Whenever HS2 uses your personal data, you have a right to be informed of certain information about how and why that information is being used. This Notice forms part of that information process.

### B. Right of access

You have the right to obtain a copy of the personal data we hold about you.

As soon as we have received all the information we need to deal with your request, you have the right to be sent a copy of that information within one month. This may be extended with an additional two months if the request is particularly large or complex.

You can apply for a copy of your information by contacting our Data Protection Officer (see section 10).

A valid request must:

- Explain what personal information you want (and, where possible, explain the circumstances in which we may be processing this information, so that we can find it more easily)
- Include photocopies of two official identification documents, providing enough information about your name, date of birth, current address, and signature to make sure that it's you.

For example: a combination of driving licence, with a utility bill (dated within the last six months) or bank statement (dated within the last six months).

We are allowed to ask for original documents and to refuse a request where we cannot be sure of the identity of the person asking. All original documents will be returned by post.

We will then carry out a search based on the description you've provided and provide you with the personal information you are entitled to receive under the Regulations.

Some types of personal information do not have to be shared under these rules. For example, we do not have to share personal information where it is part of legally privileged communications.

If you are making an application for another person, we need an original signed letter of authorisation from the person who the information is about. It should state the full

reason for the request, and the person or organisation making the request for that person. We also need a copy of your identification documents as above, as part of our standard procedures.

### **C. Right of erasure ('right to be forgotten')**

Where we have collected information on the basis of your consent or explicit consent, if you change your mind about us using your personal information, you are unhappy about how we use your personal information or, the information is no longer needed for the purpose it was collected, you have a right to have the relevant information deleted.

Please note that we can't always stop all the ways we process your personal information when you ask us to, as there may be other fair and lawful reasons for needing to continue to process this, however we will tell you where this is the case. It can also take us a reasonable amount of time to make these changes after you've made a request and we've agreed to it.

### **D. Right to correct information**

You can ask us to correct the information we hold about you, where you believe it is wrong.

To help us maintain accurate records, please make sure that the information you choose to share with us is accurate. If your details change, please update us as soon as you can.

### **E. Right to object, the right to restrict processing and the right to withdraw consent**

In certain circumstances you have a right to request that HS2 stops processing your personal data, or to stop processing it in certain ways.

In addition, where we have obtained information under the basis of your consent, you have the right to withdraw that consent at any time.

## **1.12 How long do we keep your personal information?**

We keep personal information only for as long as we are required to by law, or, where there is no specific legislation, for as long as we need to for the particular reason, we have it. We do not hold information indefinitely unless we are legally obliged to do so. How long we hold information is set out in our activity specific Privacy Notices and our 'Retention, Review and Disposal' schedule. You can ask us for a copy of this.



## 1.13 Monitoring

When you contact us (by telephone, voicemail, text, email, or other types of messages), we may retain a record of that contact in order to fulfil the activities as explained in section 1, and/or for safety, security, quality, and assurance purposes.

## 1.14 Contact us

If you have concerns about how we look after your personal information, you can contact our Data Protection Officer:

Email: [HS2DataProtection@hs2.org.uk](mailto:HS2DataProtection@hs2.org.uk)

Freephone: 08081 434 434

Minicom: 08081 456 472

Mail:

Data Protection Officer  
High Speed Two Ltd  
Two Snowhill  
Queensway  
Birmingham B4 6GA

You can also complain to the ICO if you are unhappy with how we have used your data.

The ICO's address:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 1113

ICO website: <https://www.ico.org.uk>

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**Sir Jon Thompson**  
**Executive Chair /**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**HS2 Ltd**