



National Infrastructure Planning
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All Interested Parties, Statutory Parties
and Other Persons

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN020022

Date: 15 September 2020

Dear Sir/ Madam

The Planning Act 2008, Section 89, and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010, Rules 8, 9 & 13

Application by AQUIND Limited for an Order granting Development Consent for the AQUIND Interconnector Project

This letter provides you with the Examination Timetable and other important information about the Examination.

All documentation associated with this project, including a note and digital recordings of the Preliminary Meeting, can be found using this link:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/aquind-interconnector/?ipcsection=docs>.

The Examination Timetable

We have made a Procedural Decision about the schedule for the examination of the application. The final Examination Timetable is attached at **Annex A**.

The Examination Timetable replaces the draft timetable that was included in the replacement Rule 6 letter dated 3 July 2020¹. In finalising the Examination Timetable, we have given full consideration to requests and suggestions made at the Preliminary Meeting and in representations submitted in advance of that meeting.

We have added a request for an update from the Applicant on any s106 or other legal agreements at **Deadline 5**.

We have considered representations made about constraints around the Christmas and New Year holiday period. We appreciate that one of the Examination Timetable Deadlines (Deadline 6) sits just before Christmas, but we believe this is the best scheduling available within the constraints of the statutory six-month Examination

¹ [Your invitation to the Preliminary Meeting](#)

period. We also note that parties would be able to submit representations and evidence in advance of that Deadline, and that the Timetable presents no specific pressures for Interested Parties to undertake work during that holiday period.

In response to requests for further certainty around our intentions for Hearings, we have detailed the Hearings that we intend to hold in the week commencing Monday 7 December 2020. These are explained further below.

Please note that the Examination Timetable contains a number of deadlines for receipt of information by the Planning Inspectorate. All deadlines are at 23.59 on the date specified. Please ensure submissions arrive by the deadline. If you do not make your submissions by the dates specified in the Timetable, we may disregard them.

Where practicable, we request that Interested Parties send electronic copies of their submissions as email attachments to aquind@planninginspectorate.gov.uk on or before the applicable deadline. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with the subject title and not exceed 12MB for each email. All submissions must be made in a format that can be viewed in full on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure website. Any submissions that exceed 1500 words should also be accompanied by a summary: this summary should not exceed 10% of the original text.

If we consider it necessary to vary the Examination Timetable during the Examination, notification will only be sent to Interested Parties and Other Persons² invited to the Preliminary Meeting. The changes will be published on the AQUIND project page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure website³.

Written Representations

All Interested Parties are now invited to submit Written Representations and any comments on the Relevant Representations already submitted. These should be submitted by **Deadline 1** in the Examination Timetable (see **Annex A**).

Written Representations can cover any relevant matter and are not restricted to the matters set out in our Initial Assessment of Principal Issues discussed at the Preliminary Meeting and included in our replacement Rule 6 letter⁴. Nor are they restricted to the content of our Written Questions (see below).

Any person, other than the Applicant, who submits a Written Representation must identify those parts of the application with which they agree and those parts with which they do not agree, explaining the reasons why⁵. Interested Parties should also provide with their Written Representations *'the data, methodology and assumptions*

² Other Persons are persons that we chose to invite to the Preliminary Meeting, in addition to the prescribed persons listed in section 88(3) of the Planning Act 2008 – see 'Your status in the Examination' later in the letter.

³ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/South%20East/AQUIND-Interconnector/>

⁴ [Rule 6 letter](#)

⁵ Required under Rule 10(4) of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

*used to support their submissions*⁶. Further written submissions will be requested by the ExA at various points in the Examination.

Any Written Representations or further written submissions requested by the ExA in the course of the Examination that exceed 1500 words should be accompanied by a summary: the word count of this should not exceed 10% of the original text. The summary should set out the key facts of the written submission and must be representative of the submission made.

ExA's Written Questions

We have compiled Written Questions (ExQ1) about the application and the representations received so far. These questions were published at the same time as the replacement Rule 6 letter and are available on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure website, through the following link:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN020022-001148>

Answers to these Written Questions must be provided by **Deadline 1** in the Examination Timetable (see **Annex A**). If you require a word version of ExQ1, in order to respond by Deadline 1, please contact the Case Team as soon as possible to request a copy.

Other Procedural Decisions

Annexes B and **C** contain important details and clarifications about our other Procedural Decisions made at, and following, the Preliminary Meeting. These include:

- Arrangements for Hearings;
- Arrangements for a possible Accompanied Site Inspection; and
- Clarification of our Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (IAPI).

Hearings

We have decided to hold a series of Hearings between Monday 7 December 2020 and Friday 11 December 2020. Notice of the dates, times and places of these Hearings is provided at **Annex B** along with other important information about these events including details about what Interested Parties should include in a request to be heard at a Hearing and the procedure that will be followed at Hearings.

The dates and times of these Hearings are also confirmed in the Examination Timetable at **Annex A**.

Notifications of a wish to participate in Open Floor Hearing 1, Open Floor Hearing 2, Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 or Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 must be received by **Deadline 1**. Notifications of a wish to participate in the proposed Issue

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-act-2008-examination-of-applications-for-development-consent>

Specific Hearing into the draft Development Consent Order on Wednesday 9 December 2020 must also be received by **Deadline 1**.

The Examination Timetable also includes periods of time reserved for additional Hearings to be held (see **Annex A**).

We acknowledge the various suggestions for topics for Issue Specific Hearings submitted so far, and, in due course, we will decide if any other Issue Specific Hearings will be held. We will notify all Interested Parties of any other Hearings scheduled as part of the Examination at least 21 days in advance of them taking place. That notification will include an additional deadline for Interested Parties to inform the Planning Inspectorate if they wish to attend the notified Hearing(s).

Annex B provides details about what Interested Parties should include in a request to be heard at any such Hearings, and the procedure that will be followed.

Accompanied Site Inspection

Information about a possible Accompanied Site Inspection is set out at **Annex C**. Any parties wishing to suggest possible locations or to attend any such site inspection should read this carefully and respond in accordance with the instructions.

Availability of application documents and representations submitted to the Examination

All documentation, representations and digital recordings associated with the examination of this application can be found using this link:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/aquind-interconnector/?ipcsection=docs>.

In addition, **Annex D** provides details of libraries and other facilities in the vicinity of the Proposed Development at which the Examination documents can be viewed electronically, free of charge. Please contact the facility in advance to check for any changes due to the COVID-19 public health restrictions or the proposed changes to Hampshire library services.

Advice to Interested Parties about how to access, navigate and use the Examination Library is also provided at **Annex D**.

Your status in the Examination

You have received this letter because you fall within one of the groups described in this FAQ document: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Status-faq.pdf>.

If your reference number begins with 2002 or AQUI-AFP, you are in Group A. If your reference number begins with AQUI-SP, you are in Group B. If your reference number begins with AQUI-OP, you are in Group C.

If you remain unsure about your status having read the FAQ document published at the link above, please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter.

Award of costs

You should be aware of the possibility of the award of costs against parties who behave unreasonably.

To assist understanding of what 'unreasonable behaviour' means in the context of an Examination under the Planning Act 2008, you may find it helpful to read the Government guidance '*Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders*' (July 2013)⁷. It is in everyone's interest that information is brought forward as early as possible in the Examination, so you are encouraged to do so.

Management of information and your privacy

The Planning Inspectorate has a commitment to transparency. Therefore, all information submitted for this project (if accepted by the ExA) and a record of any advice which has been provided, is published at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/aquind-interconnector/>

Please note that in the interest of facilitating an effective and fair Examination, we consider it necessary to publish some personal information. To find out how we handle your personal information, please view our [Privacy Notice](#) and Annex E to this letter.

We look forward to working with all parties in the examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Mahon

Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors

Annexes

- A** Examination Timetable
- B** Notifications of Hearings, requests to appear and procedure to be followed at Hearings
- C** Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority
- D** Availability of representations and application documents
- E** Coronavirus response: Examination changes and your privacy

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awards-of-costs-examinations-of-applications-for-development-consent-orders>

Examination Timetable

The Examining Authority (ExA) is under a duty to complete the Examination of the application by the end of the period of six months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.

	Matters	Due Dates
1.	Preliminary Meeting closed on	Tuesday 8 September 2020
2.	Issue by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examination Timetable. 	Tuesday 15 September 2020
3.	<p>Deadline 1</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses to ExQ1; Local Impact Reports (LIR) from Local Authorities; Written Representations (WRs) including summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words; Responses to Relevant Representations; Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) requested by the ExA; Statement of Commonality for SoCG; The Compulsory Acquisition Schedule; Notification by Statutory Parties of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party (IP) by the ExA; Notification of wish to participate in Open Floor Hearings (OFH1 or OFH2) (see Annex B); Notification of wish to participate in Compulsory Acquisitions Hearings (CAH1 or CAH2) (see Annex B); Notification of wish to participate in the Issue Specific Hearing into the draft Development Consent Order (ISH1) (see Annex B); Submission by the Applicant, IPs and APs of suggested locations for the ExA to include in any Accompanied Site Inspection, including the reason for nomination and issues to be observed, information about whether the location can be accessed using public rights of way or what access arrangements would need to be made, 	Tuesday 6 October 2020

	and the likely time requirement for the visit to that location ¹ .	
4.	<p>Deadline 2</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses for Deadline 1; • Comments on WRs; • Comments on responses to ExQ1; • Progressed Statements of Common Ground; • Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG; • Comments on LIR(s); • An updated Guide to the Application; • An updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in clean and tracked versions; • Schedule of changes to the dDCO; • An updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules². 	Tuesday 20 October 2020
5.	<p>Deadline 3</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses submitted for Deadline 2; • An updated Guide to the Application; • An updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in clean and tracked versions; • An updated Schedule of changes to the dDCO; • An updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; • Progressed Statements of Common Ground; • Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules. 	Tuesday 3 November 2020
6.	<p>Deadline 4</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses submitted for Deadline 3; 	Tuesday 17 November 2020

¹ Please note: an ASI can only go ahead if Government guidance on COVID-19 at that time permits. In the event it cannot be undertaken as a physical visit, alternative approaches (including the use of technology) will be explored, and all participants will be notified.

² The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant's draft ASI arrangements and itinerary³; • An updated Guide to the Application; • An updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in clean and tracked versions; • An updated Schedule of changes to the dDCO; • An updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; • Progressed Statements of Common Ground; • Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules. 	
7.	<p>Deadline 5</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules to assist the Hearings scheduled for weeks commencing 7 and 14 December 2020, including full transcripts of all oral submissions to be given at OFH1, OFH2, ISH1, CAH1 and CAH2; • the Applicant's and other parties' summaries of their current positions in relation to any s106 agreements. 	Monday 30 November 2020
8.	Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)	Monday 7 December 2020 10:00
9.	Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2)	Monday 7 December 2020 18:30
10.	Date reserved for the continuation of OFH2 (if required)	Tuesday 8 December 2020 10:00
11.	Issue Specific Hearing into the draft Development Consent Order (ISH1)	Wednesday 9 December 2020 10:00

³ Please note: an ASI can only go ahead if Government guidance on COVID-19 at that time permits. In the event it cannot be undertaken as a physical visit, alternative approaches (including the use of technology) will be explored, and all participants will be notified.

12.	<p>Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principally aimed at the Applicant, local authorities and statutory bodies, who may watch CAH2 on the livestream if they wish to observe. 	<p>Thursday 10 December 2020 10:00</p>
13.	<p>Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 (CAH2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principally aimed at the Applicant, Affected Persons in terms of Compulsory Acquisition and Interested Parties in terms of Temporary Possession, who are encouraged to observe CAH1 on the livestream if they wish. 	<p>Friday 11 December 2020 10:00</p>
14.	<p>Hearings</p> <p>Dates reserved for any:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue Specific Hearing(s) (if required); Open Floor Hearing(s) (if required). 	<p>Week commencing Monday 14 December 2020</p>
15.	<p>Deadline 6</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on responses submitted for Deadlines 4 and 5; Written summaries of oral submissions to Hearings held during the week commencing 7 and any held during the week commencing 14 December 2020; Comments on the Applicant's draft ASI arrangements and itinerary⁴; Any post-Hearing notes requested at the Hearings; An updated Guide to the Application; An updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in clean and tracked versions; An updated Schedule of changes to the dDCO; An updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; Progressed Statements of Common Ground; Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG; Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules. 	<p>Wednesday 23 December 2020</p>
16.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further Written Questions (ExQ2) (if required). 	<p>Thursday 7 January 2021</p>

⁴ Please note: an ASI can only go ahead if Government guidance on COVID-19 at that time permits. In the event it cannot be undertaken as a physical visit, alternative approaches (including the use of technology) will be explored, and all participants will be notified.

17.	<p>Deadline 7</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to ExQ2; • Comments on responses submitted for Deadline 6; • Any information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules to assist Hearings scheduled for weeks commencing 8, 15 and 22 February 2021 including full transcripts of all oral submissions to be given at the OFHs and CAHs; • Updated Statements of Common Ground; • Updated Statement of Commonality for SoCG; • An updated Guide to the Application; • Updated Book of Reference; • Updated Statement of Reasons; • Signed and dated s106 Agreements (if required); • An updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in clean and tracked versions; • An updated Schedule of changes to the dDCO; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules (if required). 	<p>Monday 25 January 2021</p>
18.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) (if required); • The ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the dDCO (if required); • Any requests for information under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules (if required). 	<p>Wednesday 3 February 2021</p>
19.	<p>Hearings and Accompanied Site Inspection(s)</p> <p>Dates reserved for any:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue Specific Hearing(s) (if required); • Open Floor Hearing(s) (if required); • Compulsory Acquisition Hearing(s) (if required); • Accompanied Site Inspection(s) (if required). 	<p>Weeks commencing 8 February 2021 and 15 February 2021</p>
20.	<p>Hearing</p> <p>Date reserved for any:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptional Issue Specific Hearing (if required). <p>A date reserved to accommodate any over-runs associated with any IT difficulties at previous Hearings, and for any final oral submissions from any parties in relation to new topics that have, for good</p>	<p>Monday 22 February 2021</p>

	<p>reason, not had an opportunity to be heard at earlier Hearings. Active participation would be strictly at the invitation of the ExA (who will decide if the event is required at all) and will be restricted to any matters that the ExA considers to be of importance to the Examination that have not had adequate consideration and discussion.</p> <p>Parties should be aware that costs can be awarded against a party that has acted unreasonably during the course of an Examination. Parties that deliberately withhold information until this Hearing that could have been presented (in oral or written form) earlier in the Examination could be subject to an application for an award of costs.</p>	
21.	<p>Deadline 8</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses submitted for Deadline 7; • Written summaries of oral submissions put at any Hearings held during the weeks commencing 8, 15 and 22 February 2021; • Any post-Hearing notes requested at the previous Hearings; • Comments on the RIES (if required); • Comments on the ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the dDCO (if required); • Finalised Statements of Common Ground; • Finalised Statement of Commonality for SoCG; • Finalised Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; • A finalised Guide to the Application; • A finalised version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in clean and tracked versions; • A finalised Schedule of changes to the dDCO; • Any Additional Submissions relating to oral submissions made at any Hearings held during weeks commencing 8, 15 and 22 February; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules (if required). 	Monday 1 March 2021
22.	<p>Deadline 9</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any further information requested by the ExA after Deadline 8 (if required), under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules (if required). 	Friday 5 March 2021

23.	The ExA is under a duty to complete the Examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months.	Monday 8 March 2021
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Publication dates

All information received will be published on the project page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure website as soon as practicable after each Deadline for submissions.

Hearing agendas

We will aim to publish a final agenda for each Hearing on the project page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure website at least ten working days in advance of the Hearing date. The actual agenda on the day of each Hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA.

Report on the Implications for European Sites

The Applicant has provided a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report with the DCO application, and the ExA may decide to issue a Report on the Implication for European Sites (RIES) during the Examination. The RIES is a factual account of the information and evidence provided to the ExA on HRA matters during the Examination up to the date of the publication of the RIES, for the purposes of enabling the Secretary of State, as competent authority, to undertake an HRA. It is not the ExA's opinion on HRA matters. Comments on the RIES will be invited by the ExA and any received will be taken into account as part of the ExA's recommendation to the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State may rely on the consultation on the RIES to meet the obligations under Regulation 63(3) of the Habitats Regulations⁵ and Regulation 28 of the Offshore Marine Regulations.

⁵ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

Notice of Hearings and requests to appear and procedure to be followed at Hearings

Notification of Hearings, under Sections 91, 92, 93 of the Planning Act 2008, to be held between during the week commencing 7 December 2020

Please be advised that the Examining Authority will hold a combination of an Issue Specific Hearing, Compulsory Acquisition Hearings and Open Floor Hearings on the following dates:

Date	Hearing	Time	Venue
Monday 7 December 2020	Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)	10:00	By virtual means (see below)
Monday 7 December 2020	Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2)	18:30	
Tuesday 8 December 2020	Date reserved for the continuation of OFH2 (if required)	10:00	
Wednesday 9 December 2020	Issue Specific Hearing into the draft Development Consent Order (ISH1)	10:00	
Thursday 10 December 2020	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1)	10:00	
Friday 11 December 2020	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 (CAH2)	10:00	

The ExA is conscious of the continued threat of, and uncertainties around, COVID-19 and the latest Government guidance and restrictions. Equally, the Government has made it clear that the consenting processes for national infrastructure projects should progress. Taking into account these uncertainties, the lead-in time required to organise traditional face-to-face Hearings, and the requests made at the Preliminary Meeting for greater certainty around the earlier parts of the Timetable, the ExA has made a Procedural Decision that these Hearings will be held by virtual means, through Microsoft Teams.

Invitations will be sent by e-mail to those that have expressed a wish to speak at the Hearings and joining instructions will be provided at that time. Parties will be able to join from a computer, tablet, smartphone or a traditional landline telephone.

If you do not wish to speak but would like to observe the Hearings in real time, rather than retrospectively as a recording, it is the Applicant's intention to arrange a livestream of the Hearings. The link to the livestream will be published on the

project page¹ of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure website. A full digital recording will be made available on the same web page as soon as possible after the close of the Hearing.

Due to the nature of these events, we can only accommodate participation on the day by those who register in advance with the Case Team, and numbers may need to be limited.

If you wish to participate in any of the Hearings listed above, please let the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team know by emailing aquind@planninginspectorate.gov.uk by no later than **Deadline 1** (Tuesday 6 October 2020) indicating:

- If you wish to speak at an Open Floor Hearing, which Hearing you would like to attend and whether you would also be available for the other, in case there is a high demand to speak. We would be grateful if the evening meeting could be reserved for those who work during the daytime or have other important commitments;
- Any other Hearing listed above you wish to speak at;
- Why it is vital that the matter is raised orally as opposed to providing a written submission;
- The issues about which you wish to make oral representations and why it is relevant to that Hearing; and
- If wishing to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing, whether you are an Affected Person².

Notification in respect of the above should be sent separately from any other written submission, and appropriately titled to allow the Planning Inspectorate to identify quickly which event the notification relates to.

While no final decision has been made on the arrangements and format for any subsequent Hearings (as shown on the Examination Timetable in **Annex A**), it is very likely that any Hearing(s) arranged for the week commencing 14 December 2020 will similarly be held virtually online through Microsoft Teams.

The situation will be further reviewed in advance of any Hearing(s) held in the weeks commencing 8, 15 and 22 February 2021.

Open Floor Hearings

Each Interested Party should assume that they will be allowed a maximum speaking time of 5 minutes in total for all submissions that they wish to make in these sessions. Please note in the event that there are an exceptional number of potential submissions, it may be necessary to be more restrictive and/ or schedule a further Open Floor Hearing(s) in weeks commencing 14 December 2020, 8 February 2021 or 15 February 2021. A decision will be taken on this in due course, and you must not rely on there being any further Open Floor Hearings.

¹ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/South%20East/AQUIND-Interconnector/>

² Each person or organisation with an interest in land or rights that are affected by a Compulsory Acquisition request in the application is an Affected Person.

We strongly encourage groups of individuals who have similar views to choose one representative to speak for the group.

Issue Specific Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition Hearings

Depending on the number of participants at each Hearing, and the progress made during the events, it may be necessary to have breaks in proceedings. Additionally, in the unlikely event that there is an IT failure, we will attempt to resume the event later that day. As such, prospective participants are advised to keep the whole day available for each event.

Procedure at Hearings

The procedure to be followed at Hearings is set out in The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010³. Any oral representations must be based on either the Relevant Representation or Written Representation made by the person by whom, or on whose behalf, the oral representations are made.

The ExA is responsible for the oral questioning of a person giving evidence and the process affords very limited scope to allow cross-questioning between parties⁴. Our Examination will be principally undertaken through the exchange of written submissions, and we will decide whether a Hearing on a particular issue or topic is necessary. This decision is not connected to how relevant or important we consider an issue or topic to be.

Hearing agendas

We will aim to publish a final agenda for each Hearing on the project page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure website at least ten working days in advance of the Hearing date. The actual agenda on the day of each Hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA.

Publicity for events

The Applicant should send to the Case Team, by the respective pre-Hearing Deadlines (**Deadline 5** for December 2020 events and **Deadline 7** for February 2021 events), copies of any newspaper notices advertising each event, in accordance with The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

Hearings to be held during the weeks commencing 14 December 2020, 8 February 2021, 15 February 2021 and 22 February 2021

The Examination Timetable reserves these time periods for possible additional Hearings:

- Issue Specific Hearings;
- Compulsory Acquisition Hearings;
- Open Floor Hearings;

³ Rule 14

⁴ Rule 14(5)

- An Exceptional Issue Specific Hearing.

We have considered the suggestions for Issue Specific Hearing topics raised before and during the Preliminary Meeting. We will make final decisions about whether or not to hold further Issue Specific Hearings once we have seen and analysed the various written submissions to be submitted by **Deadline 1**.

The format and venue of any further Hearing will be guided by the Government public health restrictions relating to COVID-19 that are in force at the relevant time.

Notification for these Hearings will be provided at least 21 days before each Hearing is due to take place.

Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority

We have made a number of Procedural Decisions following the Preliminary Meeting¹.

1. Examination Timetable

We have made a minor correction to the draft Examination Timetable that was circulated with our Rule 6 letter. At **Deadline 6**, we have changed '2 and 9 November 2020' to '7 and 14 December 2020'.

We have added an additional item to **Deadline 5**, requesting the submission by the Applicant of a statement of progress with s106 or other legal agreements, explaining parties' current positions.

We have now detailed the Hearings proposed for the week commencing 7 December 2020 in the Examination Timetable. We have made the Procedural Decision to hold these virtually.

2. Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI)

Time has been reserved in the Examination Timetable to undertake an ASI during the weeks commencing 8 February 2021 and 15 February 2021. The format and detail of this will depend on the Government's public health restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic in force at the time. If restrictions have been lifted, we may be able to be accompanied by registered parties. If restrictions remain, attendance may be limited and socially distanced, we may visit unaccompanied (with all necessary consents in place), or we may need to hold a virtual site inspection using photography or technology. We will release details nearer to the time.

Our Examination Timetable at **Annex A** shows that we are inviting suggestions for locations to be included in the ASI by **Deadline 1**. Given the current restrictions on public gatherings, all suggestions must be accompanied by an explanation as to why they cannot be carried out as an Unaccompanied Site Inspection by the ExA, and full details of any access permissions and arrangements that would be necessary.

In the Examination Timetable, we have asked the Applicant to provide a draft ASI itinerary and arrangements by **Deadline 4**, and there is an opportunity for all parties to comment on this at **Deadline 6**.

We will consider all of the submissions on this, and if we decide to hold an ASI, we will aim to publish the final itinerary and arrangements on the project page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure website on or before **Thursday 7 January 2021**.

Interested Parties should be aware that any **ASI would not be an opportunity to make any oral representations to the ExA about the Proposed**

¹ Section 89(1) of the Planning Act 2008

Development. However, we may invite participants to indicate specific features or sites of interest.

3. Clarification of our Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

Following the discussions at the Preliminary Meeting, we have made a Procedural Decision to modify our Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (IAPI) as follows. This updates the 'Planning Policy' entry on the list provided at Annex B to our replacement Rule 6 letter dated 3 July 2020.

Replace:

Planning Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the Proposed Development complies with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National Policy Statement EN-1, Overarching National Policy for Energy and National Policy Statement EN-5 Electricity Networks Infrastructure; ○ The Marine Policy Statement September 2011; and ○ Policies of Local Development Plans and the extent to which they are relevant and important.
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With:

Planning Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the Proposed Development complies with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1); • And the extent to which the following are important and relevant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Marine Policy Statement, September 2011; ○ National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure; (NPS EN-5); and ○ Policies of Local Development Plans.
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Availability of representations and application documents

All application documents and representations submitted to the Examination are available to view on the project page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/aquind-interconnector/?ipcsection=docs>

For ease of navigation, we recommend that you use the Examination Library, which is accessible via a blue button under the 'Documents' tab. The Examination Library is updated regularly throughout the Examination.

The Examination Library records:

- each application document;
- each representation accepted to be read in conjunction with the Examination; and
- each Procedural Decision made by the Examining Authority.

Each document is provided with a unique reference which will be fixed for the duration of the Examination. A hyperlink is provided to each document on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure website. **Please use the unique reference numbers allocated in the Examination Library when referring to any Examination documents in representations that you make.**

The documents can also be viewed electronically at the following locations in the vicinity of the Proposed Development, free of charge. This information was correct before the Government's imposition of public health restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, but please contact the facility in advance to check for any subsequent changes. You may need to bring a form of identification to use a computer at these locations. If you have difficulty accessing any documentation please contact the Case Team using the details provided at the top of this letter.

Local authority	Library/ address	Opening hours
Hampshire County Council	Winchester Discovery Centre Jewry Street Winchester SO23 8SB	Monday: 09:00-19:00 Tuesday: 09:00-19:00 Wednesday: 09:00-19:00 Thursday: 09:00-19:00 Friday: 09:00-19:00 Saturday: 09:00-17:00 Sunday: 11:00-15:00
Portsmouth City Council	North End Library Gladys Avenue Northend Portsmouth PO2 9AX	Monday: 09:30-18:00 Tuesday: 09:30-18:00 Wednesday: 09:30-18:00 Thursday: 09:30-17:30 Friday: 09:30-17:00 Saturday: 10:00-15:30 Sunday: CLOSED

Annex D

<p>Portsmouth City Council</p>	<p>Cosham Library Spur Road Cosham Portsmouth PO6 3EB</p>	<p>Monday: 09:30-18:00 Tuesday: 09:30-18:00 Wednesday: 09:30-17:00 Thursday: 09:30-18:00 Friday: 09:30-17:00 Saturday: 10:00-15:30 Sunday: CLOSED</p>
<p>Portsmouth City Council</p>	<p>Milton Beddow Library Milton Road Milton Portsmouth PO4 8PR</p>	<p>Monday: 09:30-17:00 Tuesday: 09:30-17:00 Wednesday: 09:30-18:00 Thursday: 09:30-18:00 Friday: 09:30-17:00 Saturday: 10:00-15:30 Sunday: CLOSED</p>
<p>Portsmouth City Council</p>	<p>Alderman Lacey Library Tangier Road Copnor Portsmouth PO3 6HU</p>	<p>Monday: 09:30-12:30 then 13:30-18:00 Tuesday: 09:30-12:30 then 13:30-18:00 Wednesday: CLOSED Thursday: 09:30-12:30 then 13:30-17:00 Friday: 09:30-12:30 then 13:30-17:00 Saturday: 10:00-15:30 Sunday: CLOSED</p>
<p>Hampshire County Council</p>	<p>Waterlooville Library The Precinct Waterlooville PO7 7DT</p>	<p>Monday: 09:00-17:00 Tuesday: 09:00-17:00 Wednesday: 09:00-17:00 Thursday: 09:00-19:00 Friday: 09:00-19:00 Saturday: 09:00-17:00 Sunday: CLOSED</p>
<p>Portsmouth City Council</p>	<p>Central Library Guildhall Walk, Portsmouth PO1 2DX</p>	<p>Monday: 09:30-17:00 Tuesday: 9:30-18:00 Wednesday: 9:30-18:00 Thursday: 9:30-18:00 Friday: 09:30-17:00 Saturday: 10:00-15:30 Sunday: CLOSED</p>
<p>Hampshire County Council</p>	<p>Horndean Library 12 Fiveheads Road Horndean PO8 9NW</p>	<p>Monday: 14:00-17:00 Tuesday: CLOSED Wednesday: 10:00-13:00 then 14:00-17:00 Thursday: 14:00-17:00 Friday: 14:00-19:00 Saturday: CLOSED Sunday: CLOSED</p>

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Hampshire County Council	Petersfield Library 27 The Square, Petersfield GU32 3HH	Monday: 09:00-17:00 Tuesday: 09:00-17:00 Wednesday: 09:00-19:00 Thursday: 09:00-17:00 Friday: 09:00-19:00 Saturday: 09:00-17:00 Sunday: CLOSED
Hampshire County Council	Havant Library Havant Meridian Centre Havant PO9 1UN 0300 555 1387	Monday: 09:30-17:30 Tuesday: 09:30-17:30 Wednesday: 09:30-13:00 Thursday: 09:30-17:30 Friday: 09:30-17:30 Saturday: 09:30-17:00 Sunday: CLOSED
Printing costs (March 2020)	Black and white	Colour
Winchester Discovery Centre	Single-sided: A3-10p / A4 - 20p	Single-sided: A4-40p / A3 - 80p
Central Library	Single-sided: A4 - 10p / A3 - 20p	Single-sided: A4 - £1 / A3 - £1.50

Coronavirus response: Examination changes and your privacy

Changes due to COVID-19

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) public health measures introduced by the Government (see <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>), social distancing and related requirements are still in place, and may be for some time.

This Annex explains the approach taken to privacy in this Examination in relation to the virtual events that we have introduced to respond to the restrictions on public meetings. It sets out changes to the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure website privacy notice that are necessary to respond to the pandemic in this respect. Please read it carefully.

How to Protect your Privacy in Virtual Event

Publication of personal and private information

All National Infrastructure Hearings are recorded. These recordings are published on the project page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure website. You are advised not to place private and confidential material onto the record. If you feel that need to do so to support your case, seek procedural advice from the case team or Inspector beforehand.

The technology that we use for virtual events, Microsoft Teams, supports digital video recording by default. Some events may also be livestreamed. If you participate using a digital device but you do not wish to be included in a published or livestreamed video recording, you have the option to switch off your camera, and the livestream or recording will be of your voice alone.

All participants in a virtual event must be aware that the event may be recorded by any attendee and that any such activity will only be regulated if it becomes unreasonable or disruptive to the event.

Protecting privacy when using a digital device

Microsoft Teams¹¹ will normally display the name and may sometimes also display the email address of an event participant to other participants who are using digital devices.

After you click your joining link but before you join the event, Microsoft Teams will enable you to type in the name that you wish to be displayed. You can add an organisation name too if you wish. Your display name must allow the ExA to identify you.

If you do not wish the email address that the Planning Inspectorate is currently using to correspond with you to be seen by other parties, you can set up a free

¹¹ You do not need to download any software to use Microsoft Teams on most computers or laptops, although there are free apps for most types of device. It will work without an app on an internet browser such as Microsoft Edge or Google Chrome. Participants have experienced problems using the Safari browser on Apple devices, but Google Chrome can be installed free of charge to enable it to work. [Microsoft advice](#).

email account to join the event. Alternatively, your existing internet or email service provider may enable you to set up an alias email address such as 'hearing.participant123@freemail.com'.

These measures will protect your privacy. If you do adopt an alternative email address please ensure this is provided to the case team so that invitations with the link for joining an event are sent to it.

Protecting privacy when using a telephone

Microsoft Teams will normally record and play the name and display the telephone number of a participant to all other participants who are using digital devices. You can choose what name to record. It must allow the ExA to identify you.

If you do not want to display your telephone number, you can add a privacy prefix before you dial the telephone number for the event. On most UK telephone networks you dial 141 before the telephone number to remain anonymous. Some networks require you to use a different method.

Certain telephone handsets also allow you withhold your telephone number using a setting that is specific to your handset.

Please check with your telephone service provider and read the instructions for your telephone handset before the event and ensure that you have taken any steps that you consider necessary to prevent the disclosure of your telephone number to other users.

Handling your Personal Information

Your privacy is important to us. This Annex amends the Planning Inspectorate's Privacy Notice and explains the personal data that we will be processing specifically for virtual events. The current [National Infrastructure Privacy Notice](#) should be read in conjunction with this amendment before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate. These are the changes to the way we collect and process data in order to run virtual events:

What will be collected?

- E-mail address;
- Phone number (if a participant joins by mobile);
- IP address;
- Display name;
- Self-image – if video is shared;
- A livestream and a video or audio recording of the event.

How is it collected?

- E-mail address requested in event invitation;
- Your phone number would be visible to all participants unless masked (see above);
- IP address – connections to Microsoft Teams will capture the IP address of the participant;

- Display name is collected from the participant's joining details;
- Self-image is collected when the participant activates their camera;
- A video or audio livestream and recording of the event is collected when the participant activates their microphone or camera.

What metadata will be taken from joining?

- IP address, joining account information (email address), browser type (if browser is used instead of Microsoft Teams app).

Where will it be stored?

- E-mail addresses, phone numbers, display name and self-image will be stored in the virtual meeting room, within Exchange Online, MS Stream (video recording) and, as appropriate, will be transferred to an internal case management system.
- A video or audio recording of the event forms a document in the case record for all National Infrastructure casework and will be held within Exchange Online, MS Stream (video recording) and, as appropriate, will be transferred to an internal case management system and will also be published (for streaming access or download) on the project page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure website <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>.
- A livestream may be captured by an external provider for the purposes of providing a livestream link, but this process will not involve the transfer of any IP address or metadata, or data other than that which is already visible in the public domain to attendees of the virtual event and/ or on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure website to the provider.
- IP Address and metadata will be stored in the audit log.

Cookies

- The Planning Inspectorate does not use any of our own technology or storage for the creation and presentation, or collection of cookies or web-beacon analytics.
- Cookies are collected by Microsoft, which is covered in their Privacy Statement [here](#).

Telephone call charges

Depending on your network service provider and contract, telephone charges may apply if you join a virtual event by landline telephone or mobile phone. General guidance on applicable call charges can be found on the website of your telephone service provider and on the UK Government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/call-charges>.