From: [redacted]
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Objection to AQUIND project from Milton resident
Date: 05 October 2020 20:59:33

Dear Inspector,

I am a homeowner of [redacted] of Portsmouth with two small children, and I write to object seriously and in the strongest possible terms to the Acquind interconnector infrastructure project, due to be constructed in Portsmouth.

I object for the following reasons:

1) Lack of best practice in the consultation process, which has been overly technical, obfuscatory and constantly changing. This means the public and residents directly impacted by the project have not had adequate opportunity to voice our concerns.
For example, according to current plans but not earlier versions, the Milton Locks preserve and Allotments will now be disrupted: these areas are deeply valued for the wildlife habitat, garden space and recreation they provide.
I personally walk with my baby through this area nearly every day, have blackberried there and investigated insect and waterbird life with my older daughter, and would hate to see it disturbed.

2) Poor engagement with the public has meant that letters on the issue have been tardy and invasive (eg, asking for residents' personal information and house prices). We have been resident in the immediate area for more than three years and have received no information whatsoever despite being directly impacted .

3) The project will disrupt, pollute and cramp life in the city. The project will close Eastern Road, intensifying traffic on the rest of the island. These areas have already been flagged for poor air quality, and Portsmouth has a duty of care to reduce air pollution for these areas. This project directly opposes established local and UK Government commitments to cleaner air.

4) The last concern I have is a serious one. The plans go directly through green spaces, protected spaces, and areas with specific wildlife protections that my family and I love and enjoy every day. Particularly in a time of climate emergency, biodiversity and habitat loss, and public health concerns, these areas need to be protected. I have personally seen rare butterflies, birds of prey, shore birds such as the endangered Brents geese, etc. on my nearly daily walks or runs through these spaces. Among many others, for example, Reception classes in my daughter's school enjoy weekly 'Wellie Walks' on the common. These public spaces have been and continue to be enjoyed by thousands of members of the public in Portsmouth, a densely populated city with little green space, who have not been informed of the disruption and destruction of these places we value in time to protest their loss. Further, the effects due to construction pollution and traffic pollution to the area will be detrimental to public and environmental health.

I hope you will seriously consider my concerns. I know I speak for many other residents who have not known about these plans or have the chance to share their own experiences and concerns.

My worries are shared by some Portsmouth Councillors, and importantly by our consituency [redacted] agrees with our points and has been actively advocating for the government to rethink this destructive

infrastructure project in light of these problems and existing commitments to environmental, human rights (such as children's right to play) and public health protections.

Thank you and kind regards,

Alida Payson
[redacted]