From: [redacted]
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Objection to Aquind interconnector cable
Date: 06 October 2020 23:50:13

As a resident of Portsmouth, I wish to register my objections to the proposed route of this cable.

I object to the lack of clarity as well as the overly complicated and everchanging information from Aquind. My personal example linked to these issues is as an allotment holder on the Milton site. In 2019 I attended a meeting when two representatives from the company explained to allotment holders exactly how the drilling would be carried out, emphasising that we should not be affected apart from the slight chance that drilling material might rise to the surface in a few places. So, it was a complete shock to read something from a local councillor last Wednesday informing us that a whole section of allotments, including mine, could be severely impacted. This could involve the demolition of plot holders' buildings, sheds, greenhouses, as well as the community allotment and association shop. I believe this illustrates that Aquind have definitely not been truthful or transparent in setting out their plans.

I object because of the disruption this will cause to a city that is second only to London in density of population. I particularly object because I understand that there are possible alternative routes by which the cables would travel through far more sparsely populated areas. The Portsea Island area of the city (making up the majority) only has three points of access and therefore traffic on these roads is often congested and , on occasions, gridlocked. The idea of a scheme that will reduce capacity on one of these roads for a long period is poorly thought-out. I assume that nobody involved in compiling this application has needed to use this road during a busy period.

I object because of the resulting environmental damage and linked to this the effect on the health. Again, I will use the example of the Milton Allotments. I have had my allotment for a number of years since retiring and during this time it has provided, not just a place to grow my own food but also a lifeline and a sanctuary especially this year during the Covid crisis. I have spent a huge amount of time planting trees, fruit bushes and vegetables. I have a greenhouse, a shed, raised beds and paths. If these are destroyed, I will be devastated especially at my time of life. We have heard nothing from Aquind on how/ if they will be offering support or compensation. Aquind's 'purple area' of allotments i.e. those likely to be demolished, is home to a diverse, multi-age, multicultural community- some of us live alone; some in gardenless, cramped conditions with young families. This area also includes the community allotment which supports schools, those with special needs or mental health problems. The area is also important as it is a haven for wildlife- lizards, slowworms, bees, butterflies and often birds of prey. The slowworms are a protected species (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) and I often find them on my own allotment. I believe we may also have a protected species of lizard.
I feel that the way Aquind has treated this allotment community, with no consultation as

to their final plans , is a total insult.

I would ask the secretary of state that before you make this decision you come and talk to local representative groups and especially to our elected officials, councillors and local MPs. We know our city and we understand the devastating impact that his ill-conceived route will ensure. Please consider the alternatives.

Christine Elmer

[redacted]