From:	[redacted]
To:	Aquind Interconnector
Subject:	Aquind planning application
Date:	05 October 2020 16:36:05
Attachments:	image007.png image008.png image009.png

Dear Sirs,

I contacted the Planning Inspectorate on 15th September to query the position for those people who still wish to make representations to your Examination, as I have been approached myself by constituents who have concerns about the project but who had not themselves registered as an interested party. From the reply I received from Steven Parker, your Case Officer, I understand that it is not now possible for additional people to register or to make representations which Examiners would be obliged to consider, but that it is still open to people to put forward submissions which can be considered at your discretion. I have taken note of this, and of the structure of the proceedings from this point as set out in your Rule 8 letter. While as an MP I have no role in deciding or advising on planning applications of any kind, something I always explain to constituents who contact me about planning matters, I do feel it appropriate for me to pass on the views constituents have put to me about this application. They can be summarised under the following headings.

Alternative route for cable and maintenance of cable

It has been put to me by constituents, and by Winchester City Council which has made its own representations on this point, that assessment of a route which does not involve the use of the A3 road ought to be considered. Constituents have concerns that if the cable needs repeated maintenance after construction that this could cause problems on several heavily-used roads. The applicant has throughout planned on a route following a highway, but it is clear that an alternative route ought to be considered, as Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council have set out in their submissions. I understand it is usual for more than one route to be considered to allow flexibility in the planning process, and I hope that can be explored in this case.

Remediation and Legacy

My understanding is that this scheme is considered to be of a type which has the characteristics of a “generating station”, and so it would usually attract specific conditions concerning site remediation. Such conditions are common with onshore wind farm installations – another type of generating station - and create a community fund to manage the legacy of the site. I hope the Examiners will consider whether, if permission is granted, such a condition should be attached in this case. The proposed converter station at Lovedean would have a major impact on its setting and so it should be required to be of a design which is in harmony with it. It is also common ground that the construction phase would require heavy traffic through narrow roads which form important access routes for the communities they serve – something I hope the Examination will take into account. It is important that there is a strategy for management of the landscape and ensuring biodiversity throughout the lifespan of the site, and not merely for the first five years of operation as the applicants currently set out.

Employment and Skills planning

As a major project , it would be usual for an Employment and Skills Plan to be required. As I understand it, there is at present no firm commitment by the applicant to develop one, and I hope the Examiners will consider requiring one.

I understand that you may organise public meetings later in the year as part of the process. I would ask you to consider ensuring that these are held in the area around Lovedean,

Hambledon, and Denmead so that they are easily accessible to residents who wish to attend.
I accept that these are not points which you will be obliged to take into account in your Examination, but they represent views put forward by people who have contacted me.
Kind regards,

Flick Drummond MP

Member of Parliament for Meon Valley

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