From: [redacted]
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Aquind proposal
Date: 06 October 2020 17:40:58

To whom it might concern,

I object in the strongest terms to the installation of electric cables in Portsmouth by Aquind, for the following reasons:

1. It is unnecessary in the light of Boris Johnson's announcement that all our energy requirements will be provided by wind farms by the year 2030. To quote the PM: offshore wind will be powering every home in the country by 2030. Surely this means that the 'overriding public interest' argument for this project is no longer valid?
2. With the establishment of a Clean Air Zone in the centre of the city, the likelihood is that more traffic will be using the Eastern Road. The proposals will involve significant disruption to this major link in and out of the city, which is likely to slow traffic down and thereby increase local air pollution. This would negate any benefits brought about by the Clean Air Zone, particularly as there are likely to be more polluting vehicles using this route in order to avoid the CAZ. Even if this was not the case, more vehicles would be forced to go through the CAZ, due to the works on the Eastern Road, thereby reducing its effectiveness.
3. The facility of a cycle route running alongside the Eastern Road is vital to the health of the city's residents. This will be severely disrupted by the works and is therefore contrary to the government's pledge to improve cycle routes. The scheme is likely to undermine the drive towards more sustainable means of transport in the city.
4. Langstone Harbour and its environs is an internationally important habitat, due to its role in the migration of many endangered birds, such as the Brent Goose. The work will disrupt this habitat and others, undermining the very recent pledge the UK government made in signing the Leaders' Pledge for Nature. If the government allows this scheme to go ahead, I can only assume they have no intention of fulfilling this pledge, and that the Prime Minister's solemn pledge means nothing.
5. There needs to be greater transparency about the links between the owner of Aquind and the Conservative Party. This concern has been raised by my local MP and must be addressed.
6. Portsmouth itself will not benefit from this unnecessary project. The city has pockets of very high levels of deprivation, and should not have to bear the costs of a project that is ultimately unnecessary.
7. I should imagine that central government approval of this scheme in the face of strong local opposition will lead to a loss of local support for the

Conservative government.

In conclusion, this project will do much more harm than good, it contradicts government policy concerning the green agenda and social wellbeing and thereby must be rejected.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sarah Hanley