

**From:** [Walker, Daniel](#)  
**To:** [Aquind Interconnector](#)  
**Cc:** [Ford, Jennifer](#); [Szewczyk, Eva](#)  
**Subject:** AQUIND Deadline 2 MMO's response  
**Date:** 20 October 2020 14:34:30  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[20201020\\_EN020022-ExA-WOs-DL2-MMO-Response.pdf](#)

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Dear Mr Mahon,

On 6 October 2020 the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) responded to the Examining Authority's first round of written questions. There were some questions that had outstanding responses as the MMO were awaiting advice from technical advisers.

Please find attached the remaining responses to the Examining Authority's first round of written questions.

This written representation is submitted without prejudice to any future representation the MMO may make about the DCO Application throughout the examination process. This representation is also submitted without prejudice to any decision the MMO may make on any associated application for consent, permission, approval or any other type of authorisation submitted to the MMO either for the works in the marine area or for any other authorisation relevant to the proposed development.

Kind regards,

Dan Walker

Daniel Walker | Marine Licensing Case Officer | Coastal Development | Her Majesty's Government – Marine Management Organisation.

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*During the current health emergency, the Marine Management Organisation is continuing to provide vital services and support to our customers and stakeholders. We are in the main working remotely, in line with the latest advice from Government, and continue to be contactable by email, phone and on-line. Please keep in touch with us and let us know how we can help you <https://www.gov.uk/mmo>*

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Your reference: EN020022  
Our reference:  
DCO/2018/00016

[aquind@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:aquind@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

**[by Email only]**

20 October 2020

Dear Mr Mahon,

### **The Planning Act 2008, AQUIND Limited, proposed AQUIND Interconnector Project Responses to the Examining Authority's (ExA) First Round of Written Questions**

On 6 January 2020, the Marine Management Organisation (the "MMO") received notice under section 56 of the Planning Act 2008 (the "2008 Act") that the Planning Inspectorate ("PINS") had accepted an application made by AQUIND Limited (the "Applicant") for a development consent order (the "DCO Application") (MMO ref: DCO/2018/00016; PINS ref: EN020022).

The DCO Application seeks authorisation to construct and operate an electricity interconnector with a net transmission capacity of 2000 megawatts between France and the UK (the "Project").

The MMO is an interested party for the examination of the DCO Applications for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) in the marine area. Should consent be granted for the Project, the MMO will be responsible for monitoring, compliance and enforcement of Deemed Marine Licence (DML).

The MMO received Rule 8, 9 and 13 letters on 15 September 2020 containing the Examining Authority's (ExA's) written questions for the proposed DCO. On 6 October 2020 MMO responded to the ExA's first round of questions but notified you that for two of the questions we would respond by Deadline 2. Please find our response to those questions below.

In order to ensure clarity, details of respondents and questions have been included.

This written representation is submitted without prejudice to any future representation the MMO may make about the DCO Application throughout the examination process. This representation is also submitted without prejudice to any decision the MMO may make on any associated application for consent, permission, approval or any other type of



authorisation submitted to the MMO either for the works in the marine area or for any other authorisation relevant to the proposed development.



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Ref	Question to:	Question:	MMOs position
ME1.10.18	MMO	In relation to paragraph 6.6.4.10 of the ES [APP-121], Schedule 15 Part 2 of the dDCO (the DML) [APP-019] and the Atlantic cable crossing protection, are the parameters assessed appropriate and can reliance be placed on the Applicant's assessment of significance?	<p>The applicant has deemed the potential impact of the Atlantic Crossing Protection to be of medium magnitude and thus of minor to moderate significance. This remains unchanged since the applicant initially submitted the ES and MMO agreed with the assessment presented relating to this component of the project. Therefore, reliance can be placed on the applicant's assessment of significance.</p> <p>However, through consulting the MMO's technical advisors, the following point has been raised. Schedule 15 Part 2 Paragraph 11, sub-paragraph (1) of the draft DCO lists several items ((a) through (d)) which the Cable burial management plan should include. As the significance of effects to the seabed resulting from the Atlantic Crossing protection has been assessed as having minor to moderate significance, MMO requires that this plan also include an</p>



			<p>assessment of changes to the seabed around cable protection (including scour and erosion and alteration to bed forms). This should include (but not necessarily be limited to) monitoring of the effects resulting from Atlantic crossing protection. MMO considers this appropriate because scour and erosion occurring around cable protection may influence the measures which need to be implemented as part of the cable burial management plan, and therefore this evidence should be presented to support and justify the contents of the plan.</p> <p>The table under Schedule 15 Part 2 paragraph 1 of the draft DCO defines the maximum total allowable length and area of the cable protection but does not specify the Atlantic Crossing Protection separately. If the dimensions of the Atlantic Crossing Protection exceed (in width or height above the bed) those defined for other cable protection, the MMO recommend that this 600 m length of cable protection is defined separately, and the dimensions are specified.</p>
<b>ME1.10.19</b>	MMO	In relation to paragraph 6.6.4.42 of the ES [APP-121], Schedule 15 Part 2 of the dDCO (the DML) [APP-019] and the proposals for HDD, are the parameters assessed appropriate and can reliance be placed on the Applicant's assessment of significance	The applicant has proposed that shallow pits be dredged as part of HDD works, and grout bags and subsequently rock will be placed within the pits. The assessment concluded that the potential impact resulting from the pits is likely to be of negligible magnitude, highly localised





			<p>and only short duration, and therefore is predicted to be of negligible significance. The conclusions presented in the ES remain unchanged since the MMO's previous review, which agreed with the assessment presented relating to this component of the project, therefore reliance can be placed on the applicant's assessment of significance. However, the MMO object to the use of grout bags within designated sites as we do not believe there is reasonable evidence that would allow their decommissioning. The MMO would prefer that within designated sites only decommissionable cable protection can be used.</p>
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