



Our ref: 20025089
Your ref: EN020022

Highways England
Bridge House
1 Walnut Tree Close
Guildford GU1 4LZ

AQUIND Interconnector Case Team
The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

07825 024024

3 November 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

Application by AQUIND Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the AQUIND Interconnector Project (EN020022): Written Statement

I refer to your letter of 15 September 2020 regarding the above proposal and your invitation to submit written representations to the Examining Authority's (ExA) by Deadline 3 (3 November 2020).

Highways England's responses are set out below and should be read in conjunction with our Deadline 1 response.

Yours faithfully,



Patrick Blake
Area 3 Spatial Planner
Email: patrick.blake@highwaysengland.co.uk

AQUIND Interconnector Project (EN020022)

Written Statement by Highways England

3 November 2020

Introduction

Highways England (HE) have been invited (dated 15 September 2020) to provide written representations to the ExA's Written Questions for this project. The relevant questions to Highways England and our responses are set out below.

Protective Provisions

Dialogue continues with the Applicant to agree the appropriate protective provisions in relation to the Strategic Road Network and protection of its assets (which includes National Roads Telecommunications Services) to be incorporated with the DCO.

Traffic and Transport

Discussion is ongoing between Highways England and AQUIND regarding transport matters which includes the Framework Construction Management Plan and concerns regarding potential adverse impacts to A3(M) Junctions 2 and 3 during the construction period.

Work has still to be concluded but it is anticipated to provide a material update for Deadline 4.

Statement of Common Ground

Matters agreed to date with the applicant are set out in the agreed statement of common ground (at deadline 1) which was submitted by the applicant. A new updated Statement of Common Ground between Highways England and AQUIND is anticipated to be agreed and submitted for Deadline 4.

Proposed Easement

Highways England are awaiting an appropriate Geotechnical Risk Assessment in accordance with CD622 (Managing Geotechnical Risk) to inform if Highways England can accept in principle an easement to facilitate a crossing beneath the A27. At this stage it is not anticipated to identify any significant issues that could prevent progress.

Positive dialogue is ongoing to agree the heads of terms in advance of an agreed geotechnical assessment. Once in principle agreement has been established, formal negotiations for an easement will commence between Highways England and the Applicant.