



National Infrastructure Planning
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All Interested Parties, Statutory Parties
and Other Persons

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN020022

Date: 8 December 2020

Dear Sir/ Madam

**The Planning Act 2008 (as amended), Section 89
The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010, Rule 9**

**Application by AQUIND Limited for an Order granting Development Consent
for the AQUIND Interconnector Project**

Notification of a Procedural Decision

I am writing to advise you of a Procedural Decision taken by the Examining Authority following a request from Portsmouth City Council in a letter to the Planning Inspectorate dated 3 December 2020. This letter has been accepted into the Examination as an Additional Submission, has been published to the project page of the Planning Inspectorate's website¹ and will be added to the Examination Library as soon as possible.

The request is that the Examining Authority agrees to a further or alternative deadline for the submission of the written summaries of oral representations made to the Hearings being held during the weeks commencing 7 and 14 December 2020. The Examination Timetable requires these to be submitted by Deadline 6, Wednesday 23 December 2020.

Whilst understanding and having full sympathy for the reasons behind the request, we regret that it is not possible to agree to it. We are keenly aware that many parties to the Examination find themselves in a similar position, with the delays caused by the imposition of the Government's COVID-19 public health restrictions at the beginning of the Examination and the statutory timescale for Examination combining to cause an unavoidable concentration of work around the Christmas period.

The Examining Authority requires these submissions from all relevant parties at Deadline 6 to assist in the formulation of our Further Written Questions and a possible Rule 17 request for information to assist any Hearings that we may hold in the weeks

¹ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/aquind-interconnector/?ipcsection=overview>

commencing 8, 15 and 22 February 2021. Our work on these must be undertaken over the Christmas period such that they can be finalised and issued on the 7 and 25 January 2021 respectively, in accordance with the Examination Timetable.

We are, of course, very happy to receive Deadline 6 submissions in advance of 23 December 2020, and in recognition of the circumstances we would be content to receive suitably annotated versions of transcripts submitted in advance of the Hearings that reflect any further discussion or action points covered during the course of the Hearing, rather than a completely rewritten document.

I would like to express my gratitude to all parties that continue to support us in this Examination, and to apologise in advance for any impact this may have on your enjoyment of the period of relief from COVID-19 restrictions prior to Christmas.

Please contact the Case Team on the details above if you have any questions about this letter.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Mahon

Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors