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Our Ref: 20201203

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Via email to
aquind@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

FAO the Planning Inspectorate

Dear Sirs,

RE: Deadline 7 Submission of Hearing Summaries

I write on behalf of Portsmouth City Council ('the Council' or 'PCC') as an Interested Party and Affected Person in respect of the Aquind Interconnector DCO application.

Representatives and officers of PCC are due to take part in the upcoming series of examination Hearings due to be held during the week commencing 7 December and 14 December 2020 and we have duly provided the transcripts as requested by the Examining Authority at Deadline 5 on 30 November 2020 and which was the subject of previous correspondence seeking clarification from the ExA the response to which the Council is grateful.

It is noted that following the Hearings, the ExA requests the submission of written summaries of oral submissions made to the Hearings by the participants. The deadline for the submission of these summaries is however 23 December 2020 - Deadline 6.

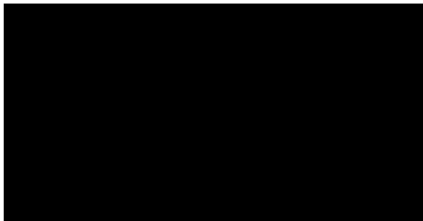
Whilst the Council is aware that all participants are subject to the same deadlines and understands why the ExA wishes to have these summaries it is particularly conscious that the 23 December is one of the few days around Christmas that the Government has allowed fewer constraints in respect of Covid compliance to enable people to meet with family and friends.

It is clear to PCC that the production of these summaries will require some considerable time to produce in order to reflect accurately what has been said at these Hearings but PCC is loath to ask its officers to dedicate extra time to work in order to produce these summaries by 23 December 2020 which it is clear is what it will take.

PCC is fully aware that the ExA, the applicant team and all parties are working extremely hard to work to the 6 month examination deadline in the very difficult circumstances that prevail as a consequence of the pandemic and would wish to assist the ExA in whichever way it can, however, in the circumstances, the Council requests that the ExA agree to a further or alternative deadline for the final submission of the summaries such as 25 January 2021 - Deadline 7. This would mean that if summaries can be submitted by deadline 6 they will be; but would equally allow time for their accurate production later and enable some relief and leeway for the Council's officers as well as other participants at this very particular juncture following a very difficult year.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Maguire
Assistant Director Planning & Economic Growth

Cc

David Williams, Chief Executive, Portsmouth City Council
Tristan Samuels, Director of Regeneration, Portsmouth City Council