

15th February, 2021

The Planning Inspectorate

By email: aquind@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Sirs

Re AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR

I write regarding the above planning proposal and I note that it includes extensive roadworks in both Waterlooville and Portsmouth.

Stagecoach currently run 76 buses from our depot in Portsmouth, principally on a number of high frequency bus services connecting Havant with Waterlooville and Portsmouth. Our bus services play a vital role in the community, helping to deliver economic growth and combating the climate emergency.

The roadworks associated with this planning application have the potential to significantly impact the efficient operation of bus services and we are naturally concerned at this potential disruption and we must ensure that there are sufficient mitigation measures in place to cover the costs of any additional resources required to maintain punctuality and reliability of the bus service.

The area has seen significant past investment in bus infrastructure through the A3 bus priority corridor and we are also now working with the Local Authorities to deliver a substantial and exciting package of Rapid Transit measures as part of the Transforming Cities Fund and it is vital that these investments are not undermined by the proposed Interconnector works.

We have been working with both Portsmouth City Council and Hampshire County Council to develop mitigation that allows us to still provide a reliable and punctual bus service during the proposed works. These mitigations concentrate on establishing suitable funding streams that will be drawn upon should the works cause us to deploy additional resource to maintain our services and to deliver an area wide marketing campaign, post works, should passenger numbers be adversely affected.

Working with our Local Authority partners, the principle of the funding pots and trigger points have been agreed with Aquind and we are now working with Aquind on the details to be included in a S106 agreement and I trust that agreement on suitable and appropriate funds can be agreed.

Yours sincerely



Edward Hodgson
Managing Director