



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

Web: [www.gov.uk/beis](http://www.gov.uk/beis)

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To:

AQUIND Limited

cc: Any interested party

Our Ref: EN020022

Date: 13 July 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

**Application by AQUIND Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed AQUIND Interconnector (“the AQUIND Interconnector project”)**

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

1. Following the completion of the Examination on 8 March 2021, the Examining Authority submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State on 8 June 2021. In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State has three months to determine the application.
2. There are issues on which the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (“the Secretary of State”) would be grateful if the **Applicant** could provide updates or information as appropriate.

**Mitigation and financial contribution proposals for sports grounds, playing pitches and recreational facilities in Portsmouth**

3. The **Applicant** is requested to provide further information regarding the calculations underpinning the proposed financial contribution of £100,000 to mitigate the effects on the various sports grounds, playing pitches and recreational facilities in Portsmouth and what the proposed financial contribution to Portsmouth City Council was to cover. The Secretary of State is unclear as to how the proposed financial contribution is to be applied to Farlington Playing Fields, Bransbury Park, Baffin Milton Rovers, Langstone Harbour Sports and the University of Portsmouth. The Applicant should therefore include in its response:

- Details explaining clearly how the proposed financial contribution of £100,000 has been calculated by the Applicant;
- Details of how the proposed financial contribution would sufficiently compensate for the impacts on the affected facilities.

### **Realignment of playing pitches**

4. The **Applicant** is requested to provide details of how the realignment of those playing pitches affected by the development will be compensated for, including:
  - A description of the compensatory strategies proposed, accompanied by an explanation of how they will effectively compensate for any effects of the AQUIND Interconnector;
  - An implementation timetable for when the compensation measures will be delivered.

### **The Victorious Festival**

5. The **Applicant** is requested to provide further information on how the impacts of the proposed development particularly in construction phases 4 and 9 (two consecutive years) on the Victorious Festival will be mitigated or compensated for. This should include a description of the impacts of the AQUIND Interconnector project on the viability of the festival, including the off-site camping hosted at Farlington Playing Fields.

### **Fibre-optic surplus capacity**

6. The Secretary of State notes that during the examination objections were raised as to the inclusion in the development consent order of the telecommunications buildings, the commercial use of the surplus capacity in the fibre optic cable and part of the optical regeneration station for commercial telecommunications. Without prejudice to the Secretary of State's decision on the proposed development, **the Applicant** is asked to provide a revised draft Development Consent Order excluding those elements which relate to commercial telecommunications, including as they may affect the compulsory purchase provisions.

### **The micro-siting of the converter station at Lovedean**

7. The Secretary of State requests that the **Applicant** provides an update on the discussions with National Grid Electricity Transmissions regarding the micro-siting of the converter station at Lovedean. The update should state whether or not an agreement has been reached on the location for the converter station. If the agreement has not yet been reached, the Applicant should explain when this is anticipated.

### **Protective Provisions**

8. The Secretary of State notes that at the end of the examination there were still ongoing discussions in relation to agreement on protective provisions. The

**Applicant** is asked to provide details of any further progress or agreements reached in relation to protective provisions since the close of the examination.

9. **Responses to the requested information should be submitted by email only to: [aquind@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:aquind@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) by 23.59 on 27 July 2021.**
10. Responses will be published on the AQUIND Interconnector project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website:  
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/aquind-interconnector/> as soon as possible after **27 July 2021**.
11. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the AQUIND Interconnector or any part of the project. Nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what the eventual decision might be or what final conclusions the Secretary of State may reach on any particular issue which is relevant to the determination of the application.

Yours faithfully

*Gareth Leigh*

Gareth Leigh

Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning