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Secretary of State for Business
Energy and Industrial Strategy
c/o Gareth Leigh,
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning
1 Victoria Street
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Our Ref: 20210727
Your Ref EN020022
Date: 27/07/21

Via email only to
aquind@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Mr Leigh,

RE: 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”) – Letter dated 13 July 2021 re: Post-examination requests by the Secretary of State for further information

We write with reference to your letter on behalf of the Secretary of State to the applicant of 13 July 2021, with a deadline for the applicant to respond of 27 July 2021. We are grateful for the courtesy copy provided to us as an Interested Party.

We note that in the letter a series of questions and requests for further information to the applicant has been posed on the Secretary of State’s behalf which relate ostensibly to matters that remained unresolved and/or unaddressed at the end of the examination. To that end, we trust that the Examining Authority’s report reflects the incomplete nature of the materials it was provided with by the applicant and to which Portsmouth City Council drew their attention with some considerable concern.

Portsmouth City Council writes in particular, however, to seek clarification and assurances from the Secretary of State that the material produced by the applicant by 27 July 2021 as a result of the requests will not only be published but also that the Secretary of State will seek comments and responses from Interested Parties and the wider public in respect of that information. As such, we would request that this new evidence be subject to not less than 21 days’ public consultation. We trust that written comments from Portsmouth City Council on appropriate new material will assist the Secretary of State and that the lack of reference to such consultation in your letter was an oversight.

We note in particular that you have requested the applicant produce a new draft Order, which represents a materially different development to that which was the subject of the application and the final version of the draft DCO submitted to the Examining Authority (that is absent any commercial fibre optic function and development related to such). Consequently, we would submit that such changes must warrant consultation as a matter of natural justice and in accordance with the relevant guidance.

We look forward to hearing from you shortly with the reassurances we seek.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Maguire
Assistant Director Planning & Economic Growth
Portsmouth City Council