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**To:** [Aquind Interconnector; enquiries@beis.gov.uk](#)  
**Subject:** Aquind submission for interested parties  
**Date:** 08 August 2021 18:09:39

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I have already sent you my objection but would like to add some comments on the mitigation of the playing fields.

### **Comments on the Applicant's responses to the Secretary of State's request for further information made on 13 July 2021**

1.  
Mitigation and financial contribution proposals for sports grounds, playing pitches and recreational facilities in Portsmouth
2.  
Realignment of playing pitches
3.  
The Victorious Festival

Firstly the Applicant's response reveals the wide range of sporting facilities affected by the proposed route of the Aquind Interconnector:

Farlington Playing Fields  
Bransbury Park  
Baffins Milton Rovers  
Langstone Harbour Sports  
The University of Portsmouth

This is as a result of the simple facts of the geography of Portsmouth. Not only is it the second most densely populated city in the UK, but the majority of green spaces on which outdoor sporting facilities such as football pitches can be built are on the eastern side of the island, so any plan that involves digging wide trenches from Eastney to Farlington for any purpose is going to have a direct affect on numerous sporting facilities and participants.

I note that the mitigation offered by the Applicant will not apply to Baffins Milton Rovers, on the grounds that the proposed works "will be undertaken works in this location during the summer (outside of the playing season)", which makes the following incorrect assumptions:

- Football players do not train in the summer
- Football facilities are not used for any other reasons in the summer (e.g. the Victorious Festival off-site camping hosted at Farlington Playing Fields)
- The timetable of works on this scale, including the realignment of pitches, can somehow be guaranteed to within a period of days, such that there will be no impact on any sporting fixtures

- The proposed realignment of pitches will have not have a negative impact on the quality of the playing surface or impact on the availability or enjoyment of the facilities

I further note that the mitigation offered by the Applicant will not apply to The University of Portsmouth facilities adjacent to the landfall of the proposed Interconnector at Langstone, on the grounds that "it is not open to the public", which makes the following incorrect assumptions that the University of Portsmouth students, staff and visiting teams:

- Are not members of the public
- Have access to alternative facilities nearby which are unaffected by the proposals
- Are somehow ineligible for mitigation for the loss of their facilities

All of the above assumptions are wildly unreasonable and the proposed mitigation is woefully inadequate in relation to the full effects of the proposed DCO. Consequently the Applicant's proposals should be rejected entirely for not properly addressing the damage caused directly to these key sporting facilities.

It should also be noted that the facilities listed above only include those directly on the route, and not all those that would be affected, as the disruption, traffic chaos and pollution caused by the proposed works will clearly have a detrimental effect on users of every other facility in the city, from the fans attending Portsmouth FC matches at Fratton Park, to the families using the Moneyfields Sport & Social Club (both off Copnor Road), to the children attending the Priory School Tennis and 3D Astro Sports Centre on Fawcett Road to the service men and women using the forces sports facilities at HMS Temeraire to the swimmers, cyclists, gym users and participants in numerous other sports on offer at the Mountbatten Leisure Centre in Hilsea, to the university students, staff and public now using the world class sports facilities at the new Ravelin Sports Centre, all of which are within 2.5 miles of the route. Even this long list does not even take into account everyone involved in mass participation events such as the Great South Run, Portsmouth Triathlon and Race For Life or the huge number of walkers, wheelchair users, joggers, cyclists, open water swimmers, canoeists, rowers, paddle boarders, kite surfers and sailors of all ages and abilities regularly using the seafront at Eastney and Southsea to enhance their physical and mental health which would be affected by the program of works proposed by the DCO.

Realistically, every single sports facility in Portsmouth and every single person participating or spectating will be affected by these proposals, which you should reject for the benefit of the health and wellbeing of the 218,300 residents of the city and [9 annual million visitors](#) to the city.

Viola Langley