

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Aquind Interconnector](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Objection to Aquind Interconnector  
**Date:** 12 August 2021 14:13:41

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**From:** Libby Webber [REDACTED]

**Date:** 9 August 2021 at 21:27:11 BST

**Subject:** **Objection to Aquind Interconnector**

Dear Secretary of State

I am writing to voice my strong objection to the proposal from Aquind which will destroy natural habitats, endanger human health and cause huge amounts of disruption to this, the second most densely populated city in the country and - despite our coastal location - one of the most affected by air pollution.

As a professional counsellor working with people from across the city, I see every day the way that they are affected by the loss of and damage to green spaces and how disruption to daily life for an indefinite period affects mental and emotional health.

Just look at how rates of mental distress have soared as a result of Covid; now imagine that just as you are beginning to emerge from the disruption and uncertainty of Covid, your hometown is cast into renewed turmoil, your routes to and from work or social events are closed off or gridlocked, your beloved and good-for-mental-health green spaces are torn up or placed off-limits and for an indefinite period. How would you feel then?

And all for a project that has attracted an extraordinary unified voice of protest from all sides - the LibDem city council and both city MPs, Labour and Conservative as well as thousands of us who are not members of any political party at all. It is an affront to local democracy and the clearly expressed wishes of local people.

I'm sure you'll already be aware of the objections on the grounds of national security and environmental impact and these are all valid. My concern is primarily the effects of this on the physical and mental health of the people here; air pollution kills people and impairs function in many others. Your government has already insisted that Portsmouth implement a clean air zone to reduce air pollution and yet the traffic disruption caused by the Aquind Interconnector will result in thousands of car engines idling in long queues as the city inevitably gridlocks. This is surely irreconcilable.

I believe it's important to learn from the past and there's one thing that the Victorians and Edwardians understood very well; they knew how important clean air is to health and wellbeing. That's why they built the St James's Hospital here in an expansive green space so as to promote recovery and good health. St James's has sadly been largely lost to the city as a hospital but there is no valid reason to add insult to the injury already done to the city by giving

Aquind the green light to damage it further.

Please say no to the Aquind Interconnector project.

Yours sincerely  
Libby Webber

