

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Aquind Interconnector](#)  
**Subject:** OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSED AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR FOR PORTSMOUTH  
**Date:** 09 August 2021 16:44:57

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Hi

Portsmouth is a small island, approximately 24.5 Km Sq. The second most congested city in the UK after London. This small the island of Portsmouth contains approximately 93,000 households. The inhabitants for statistical purposes are broken down into various groups. The 3 groups I would like to bring to your attention are; Under 19s, 52,200; 65 and over 13,800; Limiting Long Term Illness 3,400. This sum total of 79,800 is the number of people that are classed as vulnerable in relation to Health.

Also on this island we have an International Ferry Port with Cruise Ship berthing, essential shipping routes to the Channel Island, plus regular shipping to France and Spain 2 major Industrial Estates, Ferry and Hover routes to the Isle of Wight. Oh I mustn't forget Portsmouth Football Clubs home ground Fratton Park.

Despite the ravages of Covid, last year, 2020, Portsmouth recorded 0.65 Billion road miles travelled within the city limits. Portsmouth exists through its land and sea accessibility. I have sited the sea access points. There are 3 roads that can access Portsmouth. Just 3!. The same route out as in! This is for cars, buses and HGV's.

This amount of traffic in such a condensed area has created air quality of a dangerous level. DEFRA's 2019 PM25 reading was the highest reading of Nitrogen dioxide outside of London. Portsmouth City Council realised there was a risk to health. The Government responded by setting the council the task of reducing this level of pollution by creating a Clean Air Zone, the plan is for Congestion Charging to come in force before the end of this year. The infrastructure for this is in the process of being put in place now.

Aquinds proposal is to bring in electric supply cables from France to the south east corner of Portsmouth. They propose to cut a trench along the eastern side of the island, cutting across wildlife preserves, open green spaces and then cutting into Portsmouth's third arterial road!! Block off one of only two lanes

southbound on the eastern side of the island, and this for an undefined period of time. That is one of the major routes for supporters driving to and exiting from Fratton Park on a match days ie. Saturday and one evening a week. At weekends this number is further enlarged by visitors to Gunwharf, the number one destination, Nationally, for shopping as recommended by Trip Advisor.

Whenever Portsmouth traffic is deprived of one lane of traffic ie. RTA or road works, whether it be road in or out of the city, total gridlock occurs, even if the obstruction is only for a short period of time, say 3 hours. Absolute gridlock. Cars, buses, HGVs sat there with their engines running. Pollution levels go through the roof. To add to those woes, Aquind plan to have a continual flow of trucks travelling in and out of the city through the Eastern Road, the road where they have blocked a lane off!

I think you get the picture. The Government on the one hand, is stating that Portsmouth MUST create a clean air zone, because they are worried about everyones' health, especially the 78,000 as a vulnerable group, and on the other hand they are seriously considering approving this project? Its like issuing steel toe cap safety boots and then drilling straight through the steel toe cap into your own foot!!

It does not add up. It does not make sense. It is harmful for the residents of my city.

For this reason alone you MUST NOT APPROVE this project.

Very briefly, the other considerations are:

The Uk being held to ransom by a foreign country, by withholding electricity supplies for political reasons.

The effects to Portsmouths wild life preserves and essential green spaces being decimated.

The risk to health by digging up old landfill sites containing asbestos.

The government turned down Huawei's offer of installing a new super modern communications facility. It was turned down primarily on the grounds that it was a security risk. Yet you are considering approving a similar proposal from a

company of dubious structure and financial stability, headed by ex Putin employees.

This coupled with cash donations to the Conservative party and individual Ministers does not sit well with the public at the moment. Neither does Mr Kwartengs past PERSONAL endorsement of this project from the onset.

Our counterparts in France have had a resounding success with all the effected Mayors/Prefects returning a resounding "Non a Aquind!"

And finally, the decision to make this a a project of National Significance, thereby taking any involvement away from Portsmouth City Council (especially as it had been turned down before when applied for in Europe) and the fact that Aquind are pressing for a speeding up of OUR(Uk) processes for their ends, raises further questions.

Kind Regards

Michael Mitas

