

PENNY MORDAUNT MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR PORTSMOUTH NORTH
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The Rt. Hon. Kwasi Kwarteng MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy
Department for
c/o Head of Infrastructure Planning
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Our ref: PM19990

12th August 2021

Dear Kwasi,

Re: Aquind Interconnector Scheme – Consultation Deadline 12th August 2021

You can be in no doubt of the strengthen of feeling against this scheme in Portsmouth and surrounding areas. I shall not repeat those arguments, but I do want to address some of the issues raised by yourself and Aquind's responses to them.

My objections to the scheme have been both local and national. I have flagged both national security concerns and the prospect of our resilience being undermined and our energy supply politicised. Concerns about the prospect of commercial or other use of telecommunications are not remotely alleviated by the revised draft Order. This is my prime objection to this scheme. Your department has a key role to play in decisions related to our national security and I hope that all relevant bodies and agencies would be consulted as you reach your conclusions.

With regard to my concerns locally I would draw your attention to the impact this development will have on daily life in Portsmouth as evidenced by Aquind's own submission regarding sports facilities. The scheme would wipe out most recreational facilities in the city for substantial periods of time. The financial compensation on offer is wholly inadequate, but it is the loss of such important green lungs to our city for long periods of time that is a concern. It is also clear that they have not consulted those organisations sufficiently. For example, there is a major National Lottery Funded development of the site that Baffins Rovers use planned during this time period that they take no account of.

The Aquind interconnector scheme does not form part of our energy supply plans. The latest iteration of the UK 's interconnector planning scheme does not show the Aquind scheme even at the planning stage. If such a scheme were desirable or needed, the route cannot be justified. The impact on Portsmouth- a highly densely populated island- is profound. However, as I have previously argued, the UK cannot rely on energy from this source if it wants to increase its resilience.

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Aquind's answers to your additional requests for information demonstrate that it is at best a highly flawed, poorly consulted, and unwanted scheme. At worst they show it is also a dangerous one and completely against the National interest.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "PM Mordaunt". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light grey rectangular background.

Penny Mordaunt MP