

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Aquind Interconnector; enquiries@BEIS.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@BEIS.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** Aquind Interconnector - Secretary of State Consultation of 13 July 2021  
**Date:** 12 August 2021 18:36:03  
**Attachments:** [Let to BEIS 120821.pdf](#)

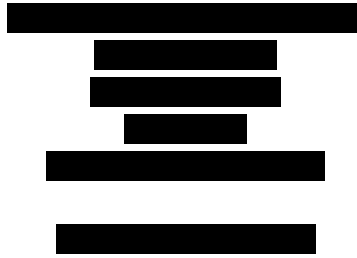
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Dear Sirs,

Please find attached my further comments relating to the Secretary of State's request for further information from Aquind dated 13 July 2021

Yours faithfully

Judith Clementson



Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET  
United Kingdom

12<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear Sir

**Aquind Interconnector - Secretary of State Consultation of 13 July 2021**

Many words and been said and written by the residents of Portsmouth, Havant, Denmead and surrounding areas voicing their opposition to the proposed Aquind Interconnector and I therefore thank you for the opportunity to make a final plea on behalf of those residents. I do so as a Winchester City Councillor and as a resident of Denmead.

**Fibre Optic Cable**

Whilst there was always going to be a communication cable installed alongside the interconnector for the purpose of communicating between the end operators of the interconnector, it was later on in the proceedings that this became a proposal for a fibre optic cable with commercial benefits. I therefore welcome your request that this element of the project be removed from the DCO or, at least, an alternative DCO excluded this element be submitted by Aquind.

I would ask that, for clarity and for the avoidance of doubt, that all references to the commercial fibre optic cable also be deleted from any other document which forms part of the revised Aquind DCO application should the project be approved.

**Micro Siting of the Converter Station at Lovedean**

You will be aware that several objections were raised to the proposed siting of the converter station at Lovedean should the project go ahead. Aquind have indicated a preference for Option B(i) which requires the removal of a scientifically significant hedgerow but also put forward a secondary siting option (B(ii)) which moved it eastwards by some 35m. However, this latter option requires an agreement with the National Grid which, I believe, has still not been obtained. Option B(ii) would not affect the mature existing hedgerow screening which, if it were to be removed, would take several decades before any replacement planting reached similar effectiveness and maturing.

To prevent this happening, I respectfully request that Option B(i) be removed from the Aquind application and, in the event that negotiations with the National Grid are not concluded to allow the Converter Station to be sited at Option B(ii), that Aquind use the powers of compulsory purchase to obtain the necessary 35m of land from the National Grid to enable the siting of the Converter Station away from the existing mature hedgerow.

### Other Comments

You will be aware of the objections raised to this project by residents which are supported by local MPs. This proposal will have a devastating impact on Portsmouth, Farlington, Coshm, Purbrook, Waterlooville and Denmead at a time when people are already reeling from the impact of Covid 19.

My concerns go deeper:

- Aquind is a company formed purely for the purposes of this project and is without prior experience or commercial track record. Why would a company without substance and relying on private investors for its own funding be considered suitable to build an National Significant Infrastructure project of this magnitude that could leave Portsmouth City and surrounding areas devastating consequences for the local amenity and economy if Aquind Limited is financially unsustainable? ***What guarantees and/or bond is required before this project begins to ensure sufficient funding to complete it?***
- On 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020, Aquind submitted to Ofgem and CRE a request for partial exemption from Articles 19(2) and 19(3) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943, concerning Use of Revenues obligations, for a period of 25 years from the start of commercial operations (the "Exemption Request"). ***At the time, Aquind stated that it required this 'exemption' as, without it, the project would not be viable.***

However, following the UK's departure from the EU, the NRAs consider that the exemption request process defined under the Regulation is only available to interconnector projects developed between EU Member States. As the UK is no longer a Member State and the transition period has ended, Aquind can no longer access that process and the NRAs no longer have the necessary legal powers to assess, and decide upon, the Exemption Request.

***Did Aquind get this exemption as requested and, if not, is the project still viable?***

- I am sure that you are fully aware of the financial position of Aquind Limited and the many different companies and shareholders involved who are keen to ensure that, despite the posted losses in their accounts to the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020, are committed to funding the project for 12 months. Bearing in mind the accusations of [REDACTED] by significant people involved with the Aquind Project, and more recently, the very damaging business

practice of [REDACTED], *what guarantee do the people of Portsmouth and surrounding areas have that this project, if approved, will be financially viable and sufficient funds will be made available to complete its build?*

- Finally, we heard [REDACTED] threaten to 'cut off' electricity to the Channel Islands unless they agreed to the French demands for fishing rights. Do we really want to be beholden to our European neighbours for our electricity supply or should we be encouraging and supporting British companies to build new green energy plants in the UK using hydro and wind power. We have the skills and the technology. Its time to Build Back British.

Yours faithfully

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Judith Clementson