

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Aquind Interconnector](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to the Aquind Interconnector  
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For the attention of the Secretary of State

I wish to object to the proposal for the Aquind Interconnector on the following grounds:

1 Permitting this proposal to go ahead is tantamount to the UK admitting to the world that it is neither self sufficient energy wise nor able to become so. Not only is this a vulnerability in an increasingly competitive world but it is a surprising display of weakness by a country that fancies itself as a world leader.

2. This image of weakness is further enhanced by outsourcing an apparently critical supply of energy (if we are to believe the pitch that the applicants make) to a third country that, in recent months, has demonstrated a willingness to cut off energy supplies to a part of the UK. This seems to me to be a huge strategic mistake. Add to that the penchant for French unions to take umbrage at any perceived provocation and this becomes a far from a reliable source of power for the UK. Better we pursue in-house sustainable alternatives than lose the initiative to outsiders.

In addition, the project is in the hands of third parties with close ties to Vladimir Putin's government clique, which further exacerbates the risk of the UK being "held hostage" at some stage in the future and is another reason why the project should not be given the go ahead.

3. The inclusion (and subsequent opacity of the justification for) a massive data link (also in the hands of friends of the Russian govt) is another huge strategic error. Giving the project the go ahead with this data link included seems to fly in the face of all sensible attempts to prevent state sponsored cyber attacks, not to mention potential Internet fraud on a massive scale. Put simply, it puts the UK at risk in return for massive profits accrued by a few.

4. Irrevocable environmental damage will occur during the construction phase, along with long-term damage to civic amenities. If this interconnector is deemed necessary, there are other options to consider such as upping the capacity of existing interconnectors (there is one just a few miles away at Lee on Solent) or researching routes that minimise mainland disruption and loss of community facilities and habitat.

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