

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Aquind Interconnector](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Aquind Interconnector: Secretary of State Consultation Number 2  
**Date:** 30 September 2021 21:40:26  
**Attachments:** [Secretary of State response No2 letter September21.pdf](#)

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## **Application by AQUIND Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the AQUIND Interconnector Project**

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended)**

**Secretary of State Consultation Number 2**

Unique Reference: EN020022

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed the Winchester City Council response to the second additional consultation exercise run by the Secretary of State initiated on 17 September 2021 and expiring 1 October 2021, relating to the further information submitted by Aquind dated 16 September 2021 in connection with the above scheme.

Regards

Steve Cornwell

Aquind Interconnector

Lead Officer

WCC

**Stephen Cornwell**

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Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

1 Victoria Street

London

SW1H 0ET

United Kingdom

30 September 2021

Dear Sirs

**Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 Application by AQUIND Limited for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed AQUIND Interconnector (“the AQUIND Interconnector project”)**

### **Secretary of State Consultation Response Number 2**

Unique Reference: EN020022

Thank you for the invitation to view and respond to the additional information that Aquind submitted on 16 September 2021. This was presented in response to your letter of 2 September 2021, which sought further justifications to explain why the application site had not changed even with the alternative option of the commercial fibre optic cable being removed from the scheme. A further request was also made in your letter that the applicant identify for inclusion in the Explanatory Notes of the draft order, the location where a copy of the documents could be inspected.

The applicant’s response consists of ten documents which are listed in the covering letter (Aquind reference 5567/18857/30985781). The response has covered the two issues outlined above and put forward a case for a new Requirement. This letter will address all three aspects.

The Council has reviewed the submitted details and specifically the document entitled Applicants Response to the Second Information Request dated 16 September 2021.

Regarding the justification for not changing the extent of the application site, the element that would affect the section of the scheme that falls within the Winchester City Council area relates to the Telecommunications Building that would be constructed at Lovedean. In the event that the commercial fibre optic cable element is removed from the scheme, then the building would also be deleted. However, the land would continue to form part of the application site and the applicant is seeking compulsory acquisition powers that would include this land. In part 3 of the response document, the applicant has set out its reasons for not changing the plans or the extent of the acquisition powers. The Council notes that the applicant has felt obliged to extend the justification beyond the compound area and the response refers to land immediately adjoining the compound. The reasons why the land is being retained within the application site is noted. The Council does not intend to make any formal response on this matter.

Concerning the response from the applicant to the request to nominate a location that would hold a copy of the approved papers, this is addressed in part 4 of the response document. It is noted that the applicant has put forward Hampshire County Council as its preferred location. The Council confirms that it has engaged in discussions with the applicant and that it did offer its services to hold the documents subject to final details being agreed. The Council has reviewed the single location (Leatherhead Surrey) that was offered and accepted when the same question was raised during the Southampton to London Pipeline NSIP. Having noted the acceptance by the Secretary of State of that choice which services a site 90km in length, the Council has no further comment to make on Aquind's proposal.

Part 4 of the response has also reported the discussions between the applicant and WCC on the addition of a new Requirement that would add an obligation on the applicant to establish a web site that would record the Requirement submissions and approvals and which could be used to relay general information to the public. The Council can confirm that it initiated these discussions and is happy to support the inclusion of this new Requirement as presented by the applicant. The benefits of adding this Requirement in terms of creating a web site that will service a clear need for information by the various communities that may be affected by the development during its construction are considered self-evident. It is hoped that the Secretary of State will support this late suggestion that carries the support of both the applicant and the Council.

Yours faithfully

Julie Pinnock BA (Hons) MTP MRTPI  
Service Lead Built Environment



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