

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Aquind Interconnector](#)
Subject: Letter from The News, Portsmouth
Date: 01 October 2021 11:43:47

To whom it may concern,

I would like to submit this to The Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP for his consideration, when deliberating on the application by Aquind to build an electricity interconnector in Hampshire and run cables through Portsmouth.

This letter has been published in The News, Portsmouth and on portsmouth.co.uk today and is also being hand-delivered to the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy today.

Yours,
Tom

Tom Morton
Head of News
The News, Portsmouth
[REDACTED]

To: The Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP
Secretary of State at the Department of
Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Dear Mr Kwarteng

Today The News calls on you to reject in their totality the plans for Aquind's interconnector

that would, if allowed, wreak havoc on Portsmouth.

For our city there can be no other decision. You alone have it in your power to refuse this damaging and unwanted scheme.

This is not the first letter you have received about Aquind.

But unlike those sent from the shadows by its lobbying multi-millionaire directors, the thousands affected by this wrecking ball will not need freedom of information laws to read it.

It's argued by Aquind that the cross-channel subsea cable would cut Britain's emissions, create jobs, reduce energy costs and supply five per cent of the country's electricity.

These claimed benefits would only arise following disruption and damage to our community

along the 12-mile route that would far outweigh the gains, if they are ever achieved.

It is not an over-exaggeration to say the very fabric of Portsmouth and the surrounding area

would be torn if this scheme goes ahead.

There are clear and unrelenting reasons why you can dispassionately say no to Aquind:

- Road closures on this island city, and diversions to cycle routes and pathways more widely,

will cause immense frustration. There are just three routes in and out of the island, and interference to any of them causes delays elsewhere.

- Air pollution during construction will affect individuals' health, particularly at a time when

the city is trying to reduce already dangerously-high levels.

- Noise from the construction work will annoy and frustrate, not just drivers and residents, but also pupils and teachers in the 22 schools within 500 metres of sections of the route.

- Loss of parking spaces, as trenches are dug to install the cables piece by piece, will cause difficulties for residents who already struggle to park at home.

- Weeks upon weeks of disruption at sports, football and cricket grounds will reduce much needed space for exercise - with Aquind offering just £100,000 in compensation.

- Vital sea defences work costing £100m and designed to protect 4,000 homes is at risk of

- When the highly-disruptive work is eventually complete, the landscape at Eastney will take

10 years to recover, and Lovedean will be scarred with an ugly converter station.

- The use of Victorious Festival's campsite at Farlington Playing Field could affect an event

that in 2019 benefited the local economy to the tune of £12.5m.

- The roughshod treatment of residents, farmers and business owners has left them feeling threatened by compulsory purchase orders.

These are just some of the concerns - notwithstanding concerns over the lobbying of you and your colleagues and yet still mystery over the inclusion of fibre optic cables in the plan

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that make it clear you must refuse permission.

When sitting at your desk as you come to make the decision, put Aquind's bold claims on one side of the scales.

Then think of the people of Portsmouth and the communities up to Lovedean where the cables will end.

Add to this the wider national security concern in Britain's electricity supply effectively being at risk of political weaponisation by France, and you can reach only one conclusion.

Say

no.

Yours,

The News

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