

From: 
To:
Subject: Objection to Aquind Interconnector
Date: 15 November 2021 22:38:23

Dear Mr Quarteng,

The proposal to run the Aquind interconnector through Portsmouth, one of Europe's most densely populated cities, is completely indefensible.

It will cause even more hazardous levels of air pollution in an area that already suffers from very poor air quality, not only from the construction work itself, but also from inevitable traffic disruption.

With only two main routes onto and off of the island, one of which will be hugely disrupted by the work, the city will be gridlocked, which aside from anything else will create downright dangerous conditions for anyone needing to travel off the island to Queen Alexandra Hospital.

The proposed route travels through Milton Common, which now serves as a wildlife haven and one of our few precious open spaces for outdoor recreation. However, although beautiful and useful in its present state, it was built over the site of Milton Lake, which after draining, was infilled with all kinds of waste, where who-knows-what substances have been sitting undisturbed for decades. To dig through and unearth whatever is down there would be utterly reckless, and could only be considered a good idea by someone who stands to make massive profit from it, but does not have to live alongside it.

Also in line to suffer huge upheaval from the project would be Milton allotments, another of the precious open spaces that residents of this crowded city so badly need for our mental and physical health. As well as this, it is another pocket of our island where diverse forms of wildlife can thrive.

Finally, Aquind does not appear to be a reputable company in whose hands to place such a serious undertaking. Has the company overseen a construction project of such magnitude before? What is Aquind's annual turnover? Do they actually make a profit? How long have they been trading? Who are their directors? How many employees do they have? How did Alexander Temerco make his money in Russia, and exactly how much has he poured into the coffers of the conservative party over the years?

All of Portsmouth's elected representatives from whichever political party have strenuously objected to this proposal, M.P.s and councillors alike. The process which has led to this project being shoved down the throats of the people of Portsmouth, not to mention those who live along the rest of the route, or our neighbours in France, has been murky to say the least. The wishes of all those affected by this have been overruled and ignored. The Conservative Government has attempted to remove our democratic means of preventing this disaster from happening to our community by taking it out of the hands of our elected councillors.

Mr Kwarteng, how can you possibly make a fair and unbiased decision about the Aquind interconnector when your party has reaped such huge financial benefits from Mr Temerco? How can we know your judgement will be unclouded when you have been shown publicly to make an inaccurate statement to Andrew Marr, saying that you had never commented on this specific project, when there are two letters in existence, signed by you, which state categorically your support for the Aquind project?

This project should have been rejected long ago, as being so obviously damaging to our city. You have dragged this out for far too long now, and the longer it goes on, the more disreputable the process looks. Draw a line under this ill conceived plan and reject the proposal for the Aquind interconnector.

Yours Sincerely,

Claudia Chester