

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Aquind Interconnector](#)
Subject: AQUI-AFP1324
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Regarding the most recent letter sent to Aquind by Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy as an interested party being an allotment owner in Eastney with a registered property interest I make the below observations.

The Secretary of State has asked some peripheral questions whilst failing to ask several questions that are critical to this application.

First given the recent allegations in the media pertaining to how the majority owner of Aquind Viktor Fedotov derived his wealth and allegations that the financing of this interconnector project has not been subject to a rigorous vetting process and this is now an issue for concern and it is highly surprising that the Secretary of State has not taken sufficient measures to ensure that funding for this project complies fully with current UK financial regulations and legislation. This could be resolved by the issuing of a Wealth order to allow Viktor Fedotov to demonstrate that his wealth is derived from legitimate sources and does not breach any of the current UK financial regulations and legislation.

Second the Secretary of State needs to impose the option of requiring Aquind to lodge either a bond or a sum of several hundred million pounds in an escrow account to enable local residents and local authorities to obtain compensation for environmental pollution and damage to property. The escrow account to be established immediately with monies deposited in full by Aquind and held and administered by both French and UK local authorities. Claims by residents and property owners along the proposed route can make compensation claims in the event of the interconnector cable being approved.

Third, given very recent developments the Secretary of State needs to carefully consider the impact of both the North Sea link National Grid electricity link between Norway and the UK that came on stream in October 2021 and together with the French/UK Eleclink Eurotunnel electricity interconnector cable link project through the channel tunnel that will be providing significant electricity supplies to the extent that it makes the Aquind project interconnector superfluous.

Fourth given the huge environmental damage that will take place if the scheme is approved and work proceeds it places the Crown Estate and the Monarchy in an controversial situation if following COP26 it gives permission for Aquind to lay a cable on the seabed in UK territorial waters.

This Planning Inspectorate consultation process has been ongoing for a considerable amount of time but the above issues seem to have been ignored. It is therefore much better for the Secretary of State Kwarsi Kwarteng to examine and consider these critical issues now or face the very real prospect of a judicial review in the courts of law further down the line.

Yours faithfully,
James Gunston