

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Aquind Interconnector](mailto:Aquind Interconnector)  
**Cc:** [beiscorrespondence@beis.gov.uk](mailto:beiscorrespondence@beis.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** Objection to the proposed Aquind interconnector  
**Date:** 18 November 2021 18:47:29

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Please find below my response to the latest requests by the Secretary of State. Please confirm that you have received my email dated 18th November 2021. Thank you.

Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy of United Kingdom,

Dear Mr Kwarteng,

I am once again writing to object in the strongest possible terms to Aquind's proposed interconnector project, which is mired in cronyism, corruption and sleaze. Further evidence of this was recently exposed in the Pandora Papers, The Guardian and Panorama and we know there is a great deal more to emerge from the 11.9m offshore files that were leaked.

The people of Portsmouth want nothing to do with a company whose finances are so opaque and who are massively in debt. Where is the money coming from? And who is behind it? The whole scheme, along with the data cable that was an addition to the original proposal, would pose a serious threat to national security.

Rather than merely reiterate the long list of reasons why I and countless others on both sides of the Channel vehemently oppose Aquind's project, I would like to raise some additional questions with you :-

Why on the Andrew Marr Show did you claim that, whilst supporting interconnectors in general, you had never said anything about this specific scheme when in fact we have seen two letters in which you assure co-owner Alexander Temerko that you support Aquind's scheme? Why have you not recused yourself from this role as a result? How can you possibly claim to be impartial?

Why suggest Mannington as an alternative, an even longer route for Aquind's high power and data cables than the disastrous route through Portsmouth, when there is a substation at Ninfield with the same capacity as the one at Lovedean, a much shorter and direct route from Hautot-sur-Mer, which would cause far less damage to the environment, wildlife habitats, our precious green spaces and residents' lives?

You mention the cooperation agreement between Aquind and Portsmouth City Council but you know perfectly well that this was forced upon the council, who are absolutely opposed to this project, along with every single councillor, both MPs in Portsmouth and those along the route. This was only possible because the project was given NSIP status.

Why did this happen when almost all other interconnectors are not considered so important? Did it have anything to do with the private meeting in 2018 between then Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth, Claire Perry-O'Neill and Mr Temerko on the terrace at the House of Commons, shortly before her endorsement of Aquind's proposal and her recommendation that it should be awarded NSIP status? Why was this meeting not minuted and why did it take place in private? We know this is a breach of the rules.

Why have you left it so late in the process to mention the potential damage Aquind's scheme could do to our flood defences? It is indeed a hugely important consideration so what took you so long?

My final question is why did you delay this decision? Would it have anything to do with the publication of the aforementioned Pandora Papers and your disastrous interview on the Andrew Marr Show?

Why delay when the reasons for rejecting this scheme are so overwhelming and patently obvious?

We the people of Portsmouth and beyond now call on you to choose the only honourable course of action and reject Aquind's proposals. To approve this scheme would further damage public trust in your own Party and do untold damage to our city.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Dennis

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