


**From:**   
**To:** [enquiries@beis.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@beis.gov.uk); [Aquind Interconnector](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Aquind interconnector project  
**Date:** 18 November 2021 21:04:09

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The Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP  
Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Dear Mr Kwarteng,

I would like once again to express my objection to the proposed Aquind Interconnector project. There are many compelling reasons why this project should be rejected and these have been made clearly to you over the past months by everyone from the local MPs (both Conservative and Labour) and Portsmouth City Council to countless ordinary people from the area. As you should know now, the wide range of negative effects include the gridlock caused by partly closing one of only three main roads out of the city; the significant environmental harm of digging up Milton Common and cutting through Langstone Harbour; and the increased pollution (in direct contradiction of the government's own directive towards enhancing clean air in the city) caused by the work and the traffic. Further, as has been pointed out in many places, the purported benefits do not really stand up to any scrutiny. Having a large element of our energy directly controlled by another country (as the interconnector would be) is clearly not a good strategy for energy security, particularly in light of the recent disputes with France. The project also does not provide an effective way to reduce our fossil fuel intake (as claimed) because buying in 'greener' energy (actually derived from nuclear) from Europe does nothing to reduce overall global emissions and is not in our control. We should instead be doing this by investing more in our own renewable energy sources.

Even though I have made these and other points before, I think it is important to re-iterate them. One reason is that you postponed making a decision yet again for 'additional information' on a very obscure aspect of the project (which Aquind have had ample time already to provide) perhaps hoping that people would forget about it and it could be nodded through later. In addition, it is important to emphasise again that this terrible proposal is something that will impact people in our area in a very significant way in terms of health, well-being and quality of life, without any benefits. This fact does not seem to have been acknowledged at all by Aquind or by yourself. It does not seem therefore that you fully understand the effect it will have or appreciate the strength of feeling here – or whether this is important to you.

Bearing in mind the project has little merit and significant downsides, we can only speculate on the reason for your reluctance to reject what is essentially a lucrative commercial deal for a company with no track record in this kind of venture. In doing so, it is hard not to link your reluctance to the much reported donations given by Aquind directors to the Conservative party, your own documented support of the project, and a general championing of profits for friends over the needs of ordinary people. I hope very much that this is not the case and you will show yourself to be a person of integrity and do the right thing finally. People really do understand and care about this – and history will be watching.

Regards

Stephen Cutler

