

From: 
To: [Aquind Interconnector](#)
Subject: Interconnector Portsmouth to Lovedean
Date: 15 December 2021 21:05:24

Dear Sirs,

In Portsmouth, we live and work in a very congested and polluted part of the UK. It is one of the most densely populated cities outside of London. The main part of the city is an island serviced by 3 roads. These are heavily congested most of the time but particularly during rush hours. There are frequent accidents and emergency vehicle access is an issue already. The main hospital and accident and emergency unit are 'off island'. Occupying one of the main routes could be a significant threat to life. The ambulance station is situated on the proposed route. This is of significant concern to me and could massively disrupt their ability to safeguard the city.

Our city is so built up green spaces are minimal yet we have regular visits from protected wildlife. Therefore, our green spaces are of the utmost importance not only to us, providing space to rest and recuperation, exercise and spend time with family and friends but to those protected species. Our open spaces have been crucial during the pandemic and accessed by the community to promote their mental and emotional well-being. Living in a densely populated city can be stressful and traffic congestion is already a factor in that. Many of our properties don't have access to a garden and the allotments and green spaces are critical to the well-being of those residents.

We have a local football team and the supporters are fiercely protective, came together as a community when the club was in financial difficulties, raising funds and saving the club. These loyal supporters attend matches en masse during the season and the designated Aquind route will interfere with and is on one of the main arteries used by them and away supporters. Movement in and out of the city is impossible on match days as it is. Many residents simply won't travel during those times. Aquind will make it so that 'those times' are all times.

Our main taxi service charges by mileage not time. It is a large employer of city residents and could mean a significant reduction in wages and earnings due to drivers being unable to complete the volume of journeys needed to make a living wage. Alternatively the cost will be passed to local residents. Our city is so densely populated and air quality is already so poor that our city has introduced a clean air zone with daily charges to any heavily polluting vehicles. Aquind and the proposed disruption will only cause further issues with our air quality while congestion is inevitable.

The area that Aquind intend to dig up and disrupt for their interconnector is a habitat for protected birds, rare butterflies and even seals swim along this section off the coastline. They do not know the disruption to their habitat is temporary.

Please do not allow Aquind to buy their way into our haven - particularly at this time as we stand on the brink of an environmental catastrophe. Due to the dense population of the city green spaces are regularly purchased by property developers as the need for homes increase. We cannot afford to lose any more green space however temporary. The route not only disrupts the coastline and allotments but runs up a busy access route to Portsdown hill which is a heavily trafficked road on a school run and that provides access to yet another green area and significantly used open space. The interconnector or will cause untold havoc and disruption at a time when lives, education and free movement have been disrupted enough. Our city and population simply can take no more.

Other routes make far more sense and there is little evidence that they have even been considered.

I am also concerned about the potential risk to our national security through the double purpose of the line. I am hugely concerned about the integrity of the decision makers, given the widely publicised connection between Aquind and the conservative government and the suggestion of 'backhanders' as well as acknowledged donations. I do not believe that fair processes will be observed and I would like an independent examiner to review any decision making.

Yours Faithfully

N J Day