

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Aquind Interconnector](#)
Subject: Objection to AQUIND interconnector scheme
Date: 15 December 2021 23:42:41

Dear planning inspector,

I write to object to the AQUIND interconnector scheme that is due for consideration in January 2022.

Portsmouth is the most densely populated city outside of London in the UK. Therefore plans to build the suggested interconnector metres away from a more suitable route seem illogical.

Portsmouth continues its objection against the scheme. Many of the reasons for opposition have been robustly made previously by Portsmouth City Council and local campaigners. Portsmouth is a proud city, who stand united against the AQUIND project. To let an unwanted, unnecessary and unadaptable project proceed would be a poor judgement. With only three roads in and out of the city I am of no doubt that the project would cause huge disruption to our communities, stall much-needed development and our recovery from the pandemic as well as negatively impact the local environment. We at Portsmouth City Council have also objected to the project and the chosen route.

I share the views on my local MP who has articulated that there are serious strategic errors with relying on such programmes to deliver energy for the UK, both in terms of the UK's resilience but also wider issues concerned with future negotiations.

Under our Brexit deal with the EU, at France's insistence, the Energy Chapter runs out in 2026 at the same time as the Fishing agreement. They have been specific that the reason for this is to hold energy cooperation as a price for further access to UK fishing grounds (Minister le Drian's speech to France 3 Bretagne in January of this year being one example of this).

MPs have argued that the EU could not stop a French energy company selling to the UK, but increasing our dependence on French nuclear increases the likelihood it will become politicised and involved in any future discussions, in particular on fishing. To do so seems a bad idea and one I am sure UK fishermen would not support. We saw with the vaccine Article 122 issue that is at least possible. More recently we saw another French Minister threatening to shut off power supplies to Jersey over a local fishing dispute. I do not think it is plausible to say the French would not dare to behave in such a way. They have threatened to, repeatedly.

In addition to previous points consideration should be given to the impact that this will have on the new Flood and Sea Defences on the eastern side of Portsea Island. The Sea Defence building programme works are currently taking place and with recent storm events and flooding, are needed more now than ever.

Further, I raise continued concern as to the disruption to education that the works will likely have on children within the city of Portsmouth. As the route passes a number of schools.

Furthermore, the impact on movement in and out of the city: The proposed route would create havoc and congestion on the Eastern Road (A2030) which also is directly adjacent to the new Sea Defence building scheme. These roads are congested at the best of times and the proposed scheme from AQUIND will negatively impact local people and businesses alike for a considerable amount of time. This will result in more congestion, idling of vehicles and more emissions concluding in worse air quality.

Yours sincerely
Cllr Terry Norton
Member for Education, Children and Families.

Drayton and Farlington Ward Conservative
Portsmouth City Council

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Chairman Portsmouth South Conservative Association

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