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From: Patrick Whittle [REDACTED]

Sent: 28 October 2021 21:53

To: KWARTENG, Kwasi [REDACTED]

Subject: Aquind decision

Kwasi Kwarteng, MP
cc MP for Portsmouth North

Dear Mr Kwarteng,

We are writing concerning the plan to run high voltage cables and optic fibres from France under the Solent and under the densely populated conurbations of Portsmouth and Waterlooville. We, and many others, have already presented to the planning inspectorate many valid reasons why this proposal should not proceed. There are problems of the project's financial viability, security issues, its adverse effects on the environment and consequences for the local population, to mention a few.

It has now come to our attention that although you said to Andrew Marr in a television interview about Aquind that (quote)“ I never commented on this specific project” you contradicted evidence which is in the public domain. It is reported that you previously wrote to Alexander Viktorovich Temerko, one of the owners and directors of that project in support of his proposal. It is reported that you wrote (quote) “Dear Alexander “(Temerko) "We will reiterate our continuing support for all the projects that we supported for inclusion on the list. This of course includes the Aquind project.” And also “We have written to the Commission to reiterate our support for a number of projects including, of course, the Aquind project.”

It appears in the light of these revelations that you are not in a position to make an unbiased and valid decision about the Aquind project and it is clear that you should therefore withdraw from that role.

Yours respectfully
Cynthia and Patrick Whittle
[REDACTED]

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