

## Atkins, Caelan

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**From:** FLEUR ANTOINE-WILLMOTT [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 March 2023 09:53  
**To:** Aquind Interconnector  
**Subject:** Objection to Aquind Interconnector Planning Proposal

**Categories:** Consultation Response

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to register my formal objection to the Aquind Interconnector proposal which has already been refused once by the previous Secretary of State.

This project, if approved, would have an immeasurable and devastating effect on the City of Portsmouth and its surrounds. Having read through the environmental statements and reports there is still not a strong enough argument that demonstrates that the benefits of this project outweigh the costs. The environmental damage and disrepair this project would cause is disgusting, especially at a time where we have recognised, as a nation, that we are one of the most depleted in biodiversity. We are not in a position to cause more environmental disruption and destruction and yet further delay our biodiversity recovery journey to 2030. I, of course, agree we should be exploring greener and more sustainable energy, but we should be looking at what is possible within our own country and our own remit, and looking to those projects which have the local environment at its core agenda.

The proposal to enact this havoc within the 2nd most densely populated city in the UK makes my mind boggle. What is the real reason for choosing this route? Being an island, we have 3 entry and exit routes to service a population of 250,000 people. This project proposes to severely disrupt one of these routes. Has the transport management plan been sufficiently scrutinised? In a day, how many cars, buses, taxis and cyclists use this route? Will they be expected to divert through the narrow, victorian streets of Portsmouth that already have issues with double parking which restricts 2-way traffic flow?

Also, how do you feel about how this project is associated with the cronyism of the Tory Party and the fact that many "donations" have been suspiciously received by party members in the lead up to these planning applications?

And what about the flippant addition of a data cable being added to the proposal? Penny Mordaunt MP has already made her concerns regarding national security clear, which unbelievably was received with retaliative threats being made from Aquind. Do you think this kind of behaviour is appropriate?

Do you think this company has a good and suitable track record for similar projects and robust finances? I am struggling to find compelling information on the company that gives me confidence that this project will be delivered sustainably, within budget and on time. Let's face it, their stakeholder management with the people of Portsmouth has been abhorrent.

I do hope that the proper due diligence is paid to reviewing this proposal and that the people in Hampshire, the Portsmouth City Council and the City's businesses and representatives are listened to. This project will cause untold devastation and cannot go ahead.

Yours Faithfully,

Fleur Antoine-Willmott  
[REDACTED]

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