

**From:** [Owen Neal](#)  
**To:** [Aquinid Interconnector](#)  
**Subject:** AQUIND Interconnector - REQUEST FOR INFORMATION  
**Date:** 04 May 2023 14:33:55

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Dear Sirs,

Sport England wishes to make additional representations regarding changes to sports provision and the playing field sites affected by the proposal since the application for development consent was refused.

Sport England acknowledges that this is a late submission and has not met the deadline of 28 April but we would ask that our comments are accepted at the discretion of the Secretary of State.

Having consulted with the national governing bodies for sport, Sport England understands that there have been changes to sport within the city of Portsmouth which are material to this application.

In relation to cricket, it is understood that St John's College, Farlington, has since closed and is up for sale. The site has previously been used by local community clubs, but since the closure of the school it is now inaccessible to the local community. It is also understood that demand for cricket pitches continues to grow. This is evidenced by Portsmouth-based teams being displaced to neighbouring authorities. Further details can be provided.

This all points to the position that existing playing field and facilities need to be protected. Any proposed development of existing sites even if it is temporary will cause disruption and result in the displacement of activity which is problematic given the lack of capacity within the City of Portsmouth to accommodate any transfer of play.

From a rugby perspective, the RFU wishes to highlight that a local club, Southsea Nomads RFC, have relocated from University of Portsmouth/Furze Lane site to the St John's College Farlington Playing Field.

Given the above which shows that there have been changes to the usage and demand for playing pitches on the playing field sites affected by the proposed development, Sport England considers that the applicant should carry out a review and update of their socio-economic assessment of the proposal in respect of the impact on sport and playing field provision. This will ensure that any proposed mitigation is based on up to date evidence and reflects how the sites are currently used.

Yours sincerely,

**Owen Neal**

Planning Manager

**T:** [REDACTED]

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[Sport England](#)



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National Sports Centre, near Marlow, Buckinghamshire, SL7 1RR



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